LJUBLIANA, Yngosiavis (Agencies) — Slovenka's liberal Communists decided Sunday to pull out of the national Communist Party, further weakening the befinence of Yngosiavia's ruling body. The landmark decision to reorganise as a social democratic-type party came at an emergency conference of the Communist Party of Slovenia, the most Western-oriented of Yugoslavin's six republics. Yugoslavin's League of Communists, as the federal party is officially known, "doesn't crist any more for us," said Peter Bekes, a member of the Slovesian party leadership. Slovenian Communist Party chief Chil Ribicic said his party was not seeking Slovenian secession but the establishment of a Yugoslav confederation in which central authority would be restricted even more than at present. "This is the end of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia, in which Slovenian Communists had the status of an unequal orky," Ribicic told the Associated Press. The break also exten

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Tunis talks begin today on uprising

TUNIS (Petra) - Deputy Princ Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Queen arrived here Marwan Al Queen arrived here. Sunday to take part in a meeting of an Arab League committee entrusted with dealing with means to support the Palestinism uprising. The meeting, which starts Monday evening, will discuss adopting a united Arab front in the face of dangers inherent in the influx of Jews to occanied in the face of dangers inherent in the influx of Jews to occapied Palestine and its consequences on the peace process. The meeting will also discuss ways to provide more aid to the Palestinian poople in supporting their uprising against Israel's occupation. The Arab League Council held an extraordinary meeting in Tunis last November and decided to call the consequence of the palestine of the palestine in the consequence of the palestine of the the committee to resume its mis-tion and pursue contacts with world powers to support the Palestinian cause and help end Israel's oppressive actions in the occupied into foreign windsteer of comprises the foreign ministers of Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria, Sandi Arabia, Syna, Egypt, and Iraq as well as the head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's political department, and Arab League Secretary General Chadli Klibi.

Mubarak sends urgent messages to **Bush and Gorbachev**

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak sent urgent messages to the superpower leaders Sunday about the dangers of Soivet Jewish emigration to Israel, the Middle East News Agency (MENA) said. It said the messages to President George Bush and President Mikhail Gorbush and President Mitchail Gor-bachev also dealt with attempts to hold an Istacli Palasimian, its logue in Cafto. Figurian Poseign Ministry sources have said a long-awaited meeting bottomer the foreign ministers of Egypt, Israel and the United States might be and the United States might be held next weekend on arranging Cairo talks on the future of the the messages outlined the "negative effects" which resettling Soviet Jews in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip would have.

Iradi leader meets Omani envoy

BAGHDAD (AP) - President Saddam Hussein discussed bilateral relations and other issues Sunday with Omani Foreign Minister Yousef Ben Alawi Ben Abdullah, the Baghdad Radio reported. It gave no details. But diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Ben Abdullah was exploring the possibility of mediation in stalled peace talks between Iraq and Iran by the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council.

Police say 100 kidnapped in Karachi

KARACHI (R) - Rival student groups kidnapped more than 100 people in Karachi in the past 24 hours, police in Pakistan's largest city said Sunday. Most of those kidnapped were students and some were released after torture, police said. A Sind province government spokesman said most victims were supporters of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party and accused the militant Mohajir National Movement (MQM). MQM Chairman Azim Tariq levelled a counter-accusation at pro-Bhutto student groups. He told a news conference a large number of MOM student activists were kidnapped and some were released after being tostured. The kidnappings follow clashes in the province between native Sindhis and Mohajir immigrants which have killed 21 people since Tuesday. Most of the deaths were in Hyderabad, Sind's second-largest city.

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Sikh extremists gun down six

JETS 42 E AMRITSAR, India (R) — Sikh extremists held up a bus near Amritar Sunday, pulled out and shot dead three police guards, then moved down three of the fleeing passengers, police said. The Sikh holy city is the focus of an extremist campaign to create an independent Sikh nation in India's Punjab state. The campaign has claimed at least 200 lives this year alone.

10 killed in attack on Israeli bus in Egypt

CAIRO (Agencies) — Unknown assailants killed 10 people and wounded at least nine on an Israeli tour bus near Cairo Sun-day, blocking the bus with their car then blasting it with grenades

and machineguns.

The attack seemed certain to complicate efforts to arrange Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cano. Police said three or four attackers in a white Pengeot car swerved across the path of the bus on the Cairo-Ismailiya highway at about 6 p.m. (1600 CMT), forcing it to half

forcing it to halt. Samiri Sultan, director of Heliopolis Hospital in northern Cairo, told reporters 10 of the 31 people on board were killed but it was not clear whether all the

casualties were Israelis, It was the most serious assault on Israelis in Egypt since 1985 when a deranged Egyptian sol-dier killed seven Israeli tourists on Ras Burka beach in Sinai. Israeli Ambassador to Egypt Shimon Shamir said in a telephone interview that he can only confirm that nine Israeli tourists were hospitalised in a Cairo

He said the nine hospitalised were the only Israelis involved in the attack who could be located so far.

"There are reports of fatalities but all are premature and none can be confirmed, we still check-Shamir said. He meanwhile confirmed a

statement he gave to the Isreli television in which he said that four passengers who were lightly injured were at Heliopolis Hospital, at the outskirts of Cairo.

who were inside the car opened fire, and also apparently boared the bus and threw hand grenades," Shamir said. He refused to speculate on who

was behind the attack. The Middle East News Agency

said Egyptian Interior Minister Abdul Halim Musa, who is in charge of police, and other senior security officials rushed to the

Israel's armed forces radio said the bus belonged to an Egyptian tourist company identified as Santa Maria.

It said the bus was on its way from Rafah, a divided town on the border between Egypt and Israel in the Sinai peninsula, and Cairo.

Israel Radio also reported the "A private car passed the bus attack and cited "initial reports of carrying Israeli tourists. People casualties."



liament and senior officials, listens to a briefing on the Armed Forces (Petra photo) King addresses parliamentarians visiting GHQ

Soviet influx, Lebanon, Gulf — major challenges'

AMMAN (J.T.) - The expected tional peace and Arab-Iranian King said. influx of hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews to Israel, the civil strife in Lebanon and the no-warno-peace situation between Iran and Iraq are the three major issues confronting the Arab World today, His Majesty King Hussein said Sanday.

Addressing a meeting of members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament who accom-Armed Forces General Headquarters for a briefing on the Armed Forces, the King called for "a great Arab national effort and a comprehensive position" to tackle these three issues, "at a address these issues are far below

the aspired-for level." The King pointed out that peace negotiations between Iran and Iraq after eight years of war remain stalemated after the August 1988 ceasefire. A comprebensive peace between the two countries "will have its positive effects on the Arab Gulf region, Arab national security, interna-

relations," he said. The Lebanese strife, the King said, "is returning to a point where the Arab tripartite (mediation) committee had crossed in its efforts."

The mass emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, the King said, poses a danger "which not only threatens the occupied territories or represents the limits of Israel's greed, but also goes beyond to the Arab depth and the Arab Order." The King said Arab moves to

tackle these issues could not be delayed and called for a united Arab stand to face the challenges. which protects the Arab Homeland through its steadfastness and strength," the King told the parhamentarians. "Jordan has never bargained, surrendered or succumbed to any pressure, and it realises the dangers and hurdles it faces because of its consistent position and commitment to its sense of national belonging

through words and deeds," the

Kelly cautiously optimistic

over Mideast peace efforts

ward. I am also realistic enough

The King was also accompa-nied to the visit to the Armed Forces General Headquarters by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Cabinet members in addition to the parliamentarians.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fathi Atu Taleb and senior Armed Forces officers briefed the visitors on the tasks and programmes of the Armed Forces. Abo Taleb delivered a speech under-lining the gravity of the responsibilities shouldered by the Armed Porces in light of the fact that Jordan has the longest Arab confrontation line with Israel.

In interviews with Jordan Television, some of the parliamentarians paid tribute to the state of alert maintained by the Armed Forces and called on the Arab World to extend support and assistance to Jordan in its struggle to defend the Arab Homeland. Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and other officials attended the meeting.

national charter, Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzeddin has been quoted as saying. Only when the charter has been published and political par-ties are established can the ministry give licences for newspapers, provided a study has been made of the market's capacity for new newspapers, the minister said in an interview published by Al Siyassah newspaper.

No new

before

national

charter

newspapers

KUWAIT (Petra) - No new

newspapers will be licensed in

Jordan prior to the creation of political parties which will be provided for in the proposed

Israelis accused of torture

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The Israeli army said Sunday it would charge three soldiers who local media said were accused of beating a 13-year-old Palestinian and burning him with cigarettes.

An army spokesman declined to detail the charges beyond saying they involved a 13-year-old boy in the occapied West Bank. But he said military prosecutors would indict a junior officer, a sergeant and a private this week.

Israel Radio and the daily

newspaper Davar said the three

were accused of beating the boy and the private was alleged to have burned him with cigarettes. The reports did not specify ence occurred or under what circumstances.

The charges are the latest in a series of revelations about abuses by soldiers fighting the 26-monthold Palestinian uprising.

Last month a reserve commander was relieved of duty after charges he gathered Arab residents in a West Bank village, threw a percussion grenade at

who fied. Two members of the border police were suspended in January after television showed one had shot without warning and killed

them and then shot dead a man

an unarmed youth. Israeli authorities restored telephone service to the town of Ramallah early Sunday following army sweeps in the West Bank in which more than 100 Palestinians were arrested.

In Bethlehem, Palestinian sources said a 33-year-old man was shot and wounded while driving in the town Sunday.

In the Gaza Strip, Palestinian sources said Mahmoud Abu Ghazala, 54, a member of a village council, was killed by a shot in the head. It was not clear who had shot him or if he was suspected of collaborating with

Aoun-Geagea war rakes east Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) - Rebel General Michel Acon's tank-led troops battled, often at point-blank range, with rivels Sunday in a two prouged assembt on the Lebanese Forces militia headquarters as tire burned out of

control in Beirut. Police said diehard militiamen commanded by Samir Geages in . the embattled Karantina district through the devastated streets of east Beirut with rocket-propelled grenades and jeep-mounted armour-piercing cannons.

One thrust was aimed through the Dora industrial district on the city's northern outskirts. The other was launched through the working class 'In Rummanch quarter on Beirgit's northwestern

fringe, police reported.
Two oil tanks at the sprawling Dora fuel depot were set on fire during the clashes that raged despite cease-fire appeals. Pillars of flame shot skywards

and thick clouds of black smoke shrouded the city's mainly Christian sector as the oil tanks blazed out of control along with scores of burning buildings.

Aoun unleashed the assault

with U.S.-made M-48 and French-built AMX-13 tanks at dawn in an apparent make-orbreak attempt to crush the Lebanese Forces after six days of savage battles and become the undisputed leader of the Christian enclave north of Beirgt. Police said 195 people have been killed and 830 wounded.

many of them civilians, in the murderous showdown in the Christian heartland, where an estimated one million people live. ched. Aoun's artillery hammered east Beirut districts held by the Lebanese Forces in night-long

An estimated 500,000 people doed has ansupped in benewoo shelters, where they have sheltered since Tuesday, as shells rained down from Aoun's mountaintop positions cast of the city. After the dawn assault. militia barracks at Dhaveh had

"What happened today in Dosych is a turning point... the attackers retreated," he said on Voice of Lebanon radio.

been beaten off.

A Reuter correspondent at the scene said: "I can see burned and abandoned military vehicles on the highway. There is smoke rising from Lebanese barracks. Most buildings along the roads have been hit. Some have been turned black by flames and

He said it was then still unclear who had gained the upper hand. Dbayeh straddles supply lines between the militia port of Jounieh and east Beirut.

East Beirut's church bells tolled earlier in the day in memory of the latest dead, but their mountful sound was buried by the thunder of exploding shells. The sector's 500,000 residents experienced a day of unremitting

For 70 heart-stopping minutes shells, rockets, and mortar bombs poured into the city's battered streets at a rate of one a second. The air was filled with a thunderous roar and the ground shook. The small of gunpowder filled

and screams of wounded and cries of bereaved relatives filled wards as doctors and nurses tried to save those with a chance of

"We see nothing... no buildgs, no streets and no houses. We only see fires and black formes rising above east Belrut," said east Beirat resident Janine Khoury, from heights above the The fighting erupted on

Wednesday when Aoun ordered the militia to sucrender its arms and disband in a bid to take control of the Christian enclave. The International Committee

of the Red Cross sopealed for a two-hour mercy trace at 2 p.m. (1200 GMT) to rush medical supplies from west Beirut across the dividing green line to hospitals in the Christian sector. But one hour after the dead-

line, Red Cross officials told reporters that plans to send a sevencar convoy were called off because they could not obtain security guarantees. Six earleir truce accords failed

to stop the fighting, among the worst in the Christian sector since Lebanon gained independence from France in 1943.

Geagea declared: "This fighting has destroyed our homes, wrecked our factories, devastated our economy and shattered the fabric of our society. "It's continuing because Aoun

elimination of the Lebanese forces by force of arms is im-Shells hit churches, hospitals,

cannot yet accept the fact that the

NICOSIA (Agencies) — A senior United States official said after talks with Saudi Arabian officials Sunday he was cautiously optimistic that Middle East peace

"The process will take time, but a solid start has been made, and the United States is determined to do all it can to maintain the momentum," John Kelly, assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs, said in a statement sent to Reuters in

moves would move forward. U.S. embassy officials in Riyadh reached by telephone

to know that, because of the complexities of the problem, the process will move forward only after careful considerations."

would not elaborate on Kelly's remarks or say who he met during his two day stay in Saudi Arabia. Isracli and U.S. sources have said that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) gave key "concessions" allowing Egypt to name members of the Palestinian

delegation for Palestinian-Israeli talks in Cairo.

Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials also said Saturday a meeting of the foreign ministers of Egypt, Israel and the United States might be held as early as next week to prepare for the

But the PLO said Saturday no such concessions were given, insisting on its right to take part in all stages of the peace process. That role is vehemently re-

Cyprus. "I am cautiously optimistic that schools and apartment buildings. jected by Israel. the air. Deputies' 'poor' performance on the floor is due to

By Nermeen Murad Jordan Times Staff Reporter AMMAN - Members of the Lower House of Parliament describe the current stage in their parliamentary life as "a school" and ask officials and citizens who might have any criticism of their performance on the floor to show broadmindedness and understanding of the problems faced by the

Citizens, observers and even officials generally criticise what they see as the inability of deputies to focus on the right issues at the right time, the lack of any research on the subjects they talk about and the methods of debate they use in their sessions.

"What is taking place now in Parliament is a school for everyone who live in Jordan ... we are all learning (how to conduct democracy)," Amman Deputy Fakhri Kawar told the Jordan Times. Although the deputies who

admit that there were indications that "some" of the speakers during last week's session on the budget "were flirting with their constituencies, or playing to the gallery, as some would say, the majority were sincere about presenting the public's problems to the government at the first possible opportunity," Kawar

But, Kawar said, "most of the attacks against the members of Parliament generalised the situation without any consideration for who did well and who did not." Both Kawar and Mansour

Murad, also an Amman Deputy, agree that the main cause behind criticism that the

budget discussions "did not address the issue at hand" is the absence of political parties. "In developed countries which have parliamentary systems, deputies are supported

financially, administratively

and academically by a political party or individuals and institutions which believe in the cause of the respective deputy," Murad said.
"The problem here would

be solved when political parties are formally established because as we can see from the current set-up in Parliament, only independents suffer from this problem," Kawar said. But, according to the de-

paties, Parliament members are expected to support themselves and uphold their constitnencies' demands on salaries of JD 500 a month. "I am one of those deputies

who are still unable to open an office because my salary will not cover the expenses... and I am not the only one; there are many like me," said Murad. According to Murad, "our Parliament members are really eathusiastic but there are no financial provisions to complement this enthusiasm."

: Although every committee

of the Lower House is farnished with a secretary, members of parliament still feel that this arrangement is not enough and cited the "poor" state of their speeches as examples.

"Most of the speeches were handwritten and not typed," said one deputy who asked not to be identified. He explained that deputies of the Legal Committee could not ask its secretary to type their speeches for the budget; and to employ a personal secretary is not feasible in light of their A cabinet minister who did

not wish to be identified told the Jordan Times that her understood the grievances of the deputies and described them as "justified," saying that the government should consider ways to reorganise and improve standards and working conditions for the deputies.
"We are now considering

establishing pooling offices for the deputies if only to organise

the typing of their paperwork," the minister said. He added that the government the minister said. He should continue to toy with an earlier idea to rent an office building and turn it into offices for deputies furnished with all the necessities and staff for their work. The last Parliament discussed renting the offices of the Housing Bank which are adjacent to the Parliament building as a possible site to house their offices, but the idea never came to fruition although it is now being consi-

Kawar pointed out that the lack of research and supporting staff to be entrusted with the role of receiving complaints from constituents, answering telephones and dealing with smaller problems was the most pressing problem facing the deputies.

I want staff who will deal

dered again.

with the people just as I would... on a friendly and helpful basis and not with an upperhand attitude," Kawar

If furnished with the proper staff, interviewed deputies agreed, they would entrust these employees with the duties of research and authentification of reports needed to prepare for specialised speeches such as those dealing with the general hudget.

Kawar suggested that the government could help solve this problem by asking the different ministries to allocate a number of their own staff who do not have much work in their own ministry" to help the deputies.

"If each deputy was allo-cated two people then all problems would be solved," Kawar said, adding that staff salaries should continue to be paid by their respective ministries or government departments.

In response to accusations that they failed to compromise their demands with the dictates of "an austerity budget,"

deputies again blamed critics for such a generalisation and maintained that most of the speeches "were good and addressed the budget."

Many of them, however, conceded that there were some outrageous demands by some of the deputies. "Take for example the deputy who asked for a mosque to be built in every school in the Kingdom,' said a deputy who wished to remain anonymous.

Apart from causing harm to the personal standing of the deputies themselves, accusations and criticism at this point "would harm the democratic experiment as a whole," said a deputy. This view was shared by several other members of Parliament.

"If we consider that we are all experimenting with democracy and learning with hopes to become more professional then we should be spared this indiscriminate criticism, Kawar said.

Iraq, Syria hold talks on Euphrates cutoff

KUWAIT (AP) — Iraq and Syria were reported Sunday to have put aside their long-standing feud by holding meetings to discuss Turkey's cutoff of the **Euphrates River.**

The daily Al Anbaa, quoting Arab diplomatic sources, said Iraqi and Syrian officials held four meetings in Baghdad and Damascus over the past two weeks to "coordinate" their re-

The sources, who were not further identified, were quoted as saying the meetings represented "a positive development" for the future of relations between the two Arab countries.

The identities or government rank of the officials were not disclosed. There was no immediate reaction to the Kuwaiti report from either Iraq or Syria.

Turkey diverted much of the Euphrates water for a month, beginning Jan. 13, to fill the reservoir at the Ataturk Dam, centerpiece of a major hydroelectric and irrigation project in their impoverished southeastern pro-

The 2,300-kilometre Euphrates originates in the mountains of eastern Turkey and runs through Syria and Iraq before flowing into

The Turkish action triggered protests in Syria and Iraq, who fear damage to their agriculture and a worsening of international quarrels over scarce water re-

Al Anbaa said that the overtures were started by Damascus when Syrian delegation visited Bashdad "to discuss taking a unified stand over the Euphrates

The Kuwaiti daily said Baghdad and Damascus adopted as their blueprint a legal study by the late Salah Al Tarazi of Syria on the rights of Iraq and Syria to the Euphrates waters.

Tarazi was Svria's peremanent delegate at the United Nations before he was chosen as a judge

Kuwait urges Soviets to halt emigration to Israel

KUWAIT (Agencies) — The of the Arab people of Palestinian government called on the Soviet and a serious danger to the future Uniou Sunday to take urgent of the Arab Nation," he said. measures to halt the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, describing the process as a "flagrant

aggression" against the Arabs. A statement issued after the weekly cabinet session chaired by the crown prince and prime minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, reminded Moscow of its close links with the Arab World.

It said failure to stem the emigration flow would east doubt on the credibility of "the concerned parties" seeking to prom-ote a Middle East settlement. These include the Soviet Union.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said last month he expected some 300,000 Soviet Jews to settle in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip over the next few years.

· · Moscow · has recently relaxed some restrictions on the emigration of the Soviet Jews, while the United States has tightened its

"The Kuwaiti government followed with extreme concern the news of intensive emigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied Arab territories, considering it a direct encouragement to the expansionist policies of the Israeli leadership and Zionist settlement in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip," said Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashed 'Abdul Aziz Al Rashed.

"While the cabinet denounces this tragic development, it calls on all international parties, foremostly the Soviet Union, which maintains links of cooperation. friendship and common interests with the Arab World, to take urgent measures to halt this emigration which constitutes a flagrant aggression on the rights power.

Earlier, the Foreign Ministry called for international action on the Soviet Jews issue, but did not mention the Soviet Union

Rabbi lifts flight ban

An Israeli chief Rabbi Sunday lifted for Soviet Jews a standing ban against air travel on the Jewish Sabbath.

Tel Aviv Rabbi Yona Metzger said the ruling by chief Rabbi Mordechai Eliahu, one of two chief rabbis, holds that Jews may fly on the Sabbath and Jewish holidays if there is a fear their lives are in danger.

Metzger said Eliahu issued the religious ruling in answer to his question about a huge Soviet ewish, demand to emigrate. Soviet Jews are moving to

Israel at a rate of 5,000 a month. This isn't war, this isn't shooting, but there is a possibility that lives are in danger or a fear of there perhaps being pogroms in, various areas," Metzger told

"The chief rabbi's ruling said in places where there is a fear of mounting anti-Semitism to the point of pogroms,... it is not only permissible to fly on the Sabbath but a religious duty."

Jews are not normally allowed to travel on the Sabbath which runs from Friday evening to Saturday night.

Israel says it wants emigration accelerated for fear that resurgent nationalism in the Soviet Union could lead to attacks on Jews or that Moscow's open-door policy could be revoked should President Gorbachev fall from

En raison des évennements qui se déroulent actuellement à Beyrouth, les délégués du C.S.F.E. ont dû reporter à une date ulténeure leur visite à Amman.

La réception prévue à la Résidence de France Lundi a Février est donc annulée./.

at the International Court in the

Though the discussions were confined to the Euphrates waters, they indicate an imminent im-provement in relations between the two countries at a time when both Iraq and Syria are preparing for a period of domestic openthe paper quoted one of its

sources as saying.

That was a reference to a decision by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to introduce a new constitution that would provide for greater press freedom and the formation of new political par-

There have also been unconfirmed reports in the Gulf Arab press that Syria is planning to open up economically with market-orientated reforms.

Among the most contentious issues dividing the two countries is the war in Lebanon. Iraq was supplying renegade Gen. Michel Aoun with weapons in his "war of liberation" against Syria's 40,000 troops in Lebanon.

Also contributing to the feud was Syria's support for Iran in the eight-year Gulf war against Iraq.

Ethiopia asks rebels to support **peace moves**

NAIROBI (R) — The Ethiopian government has called on rebels in northern areas to respond to its call for peace and warned them that it will step up military operations, if the appeal is ignored. Addis Ababa Radio, moni-

tored here Sunday, said: "We urge all opposition groups, including the Weyane, to respond positively to our call for peace.' Weyane is the name of the government gives to the rebel Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) which occupied large areas of northern Ethiopia.

The radio added that if the appeal was ignored, the government would reinforce its troops and militia now operating against the rebels.

Last week the Tigray rebels said they had killed more than 700 government troops in a battle in Wollo province.

Saudis suspend issuing visas in Bangkok

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) Sandi Arabia's embassy has suspended issuing visas to Thais seeking employment in that nation after three of its diplomats were killed last week, said a Thai

Thai government spokesman Suvit Yodmanee said in a telephone interview that it was unclear when visas would he processed again.

A newspaper in Saudi Arabia reported Saturday that the country was taking steps to halt the entry of Thai workers, but did not specify what the measures would

Unknown assailants shot the three diplomats to death last Thursday. All three worked in the embassy's consular section, which processes visas for the thousands of Thais seeking work in the oil-rich nation.

About 150,000 Thais are currently in Saudi Arabia. Sompong Fai-Champa, a Thai Foreign Ministry spokesman, said the Saudi Árabian move would not affect those workers.

Sompong quoted Foreign Minister Siddhi Savetsila as telling the Saudi embassy that inves-tigation of the killings would he speeded up.

Siddhi also has sent a letter to Prime Miuister Chatiehai Choonhavan and Interior Minister Banharn Silpa-Archa stating his concern over the case, Sompong said.

Suvit said some Saudi Arabian families left Thailand Saturday because of safety concerns.

Thai authorities have failed to find the killers of another Saudi Arabian diplomat who was shot to death in January last year.

That diplomat had been responsible for processing visa applications. There was speculation at the time that the murderers could have been frustrated workers or labour export agents unable to secure entry visas to the Middle Eastern kingdom.

No evidence emerged in that case that the killing was linked to the turbulent politics of the Middle East or international ter-

Aoun's troops make slow progress in battle against Lebanese Forces

Residents said the Christian

half of the city, home to some

500,000 people, may indeed

emerge a devastated ruin by the time his battle with arch Christian

of his aims.

BEIT MERI, Lebanon (R) — General Michel Aoun is making slow progress in his bid to be come absolute master of Lebanon's predominantly Christian enclave which has cost almost 200 lives in five days of savage

From a vantage point occupied by Aoun's gunners around the mountain resort of Beit Meri, the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia be is trying to crush was seen putting up stiff resistance to his army's superior firepower.

Some 700 metres below, the deserted streets of east Beirut were swathed in black choking smoke from a dozen fires after a two-hour battle starting at dawn Sunday — the heaviest single bout of fighting since the war began Wednesday.

Shells and rockets poured into

and across the city, exploding at the rate of one a second for 70 minutes. The air was filled with a thunderous roar and the ground

Entire blocks were lit up by the nany fires or flashes from artillery — white as shells were fired and yellow when they exploded. The whole scene was illuminated by two gas tanks burning in the Dora district.

Aoun said at the height of a bout of fierce battles 10 months ago with his mainly Muslim adversaries in Syrian-controlled west Beirut that he was prepared

rival, LF leader Samir Geagea, is decided. The battle Sunday stretched along a 10-kilometre front from the south eastern suburbs of east Beirut to the northern suburb of

Fighting raged between neighbourhoods along a network of front lines established when fighting broke out after Aoun ordered Geagea's militia to disarm.

Aoun's army broadly controls strip of territory from Aoun's bunker beneath the presidential palace at Baabda in the south east of Dbayeh. It is trying to push the LF into the sea around the docks in the north-west corner of east Beirut.

It was trying to advance along three main axes — from coastal Dbayeh in the north, towards Dora in the east and from Death River in the south.

Military sources said Aoun's troops had made slow progress since Wednesday. As they advanced along main roads they were having to clear surrounding areas of militiamen, split into units of a dozen men each and adopting hit-and-run tactics. Next to the port is the shell-

to see Beirut destroyed in pursuit blasted LF headquarters at the LF on three sides. Karantina, where Geagea is believed to he directing operations from a bunker three floors below

A multi-barreled rocket launcher at the HQ opens fire across the city to support militia units in trouble elsewhere. A stream of 122m rockets was directed Sunday at Dbayeh, the army's northernmost position within the en-

Troops in Dbayeh faced LF tanks and artillery guarding the tunnel at Dog River on the coastal highway leading to the militiaheld port of Jounieh 20 kilometres north of Beirut.

Military sources said Sunday the army now held hills overlooking the tunnel and hoped to take it soon. Commandos had been sent down from the mountains to the southern approaches of Jounieh to cut off any LF reinforcements headed for the

But there were reports that the LF was already receiving supplies

The army has also been gradually probing northwards along the coast road from Dbayeh for the past two days. It hopes to push through Jounieh to link with its commando units holding territory north of the port --including Lebanon's prime gambling casino and an air force base at Adma — but surrounded by

But military analysts said Aoun. would probably try to eliminate the LF in Beaut before turning on its traditional heartland in Journieh and the northeast of the Christian enclave.

The rocket launcher at Karantina also struck at the southernmost army position on the coast road, in the Death River area. Scores of shells were exchanged between Death River and LF positions in nearby Dora. on the main route to Karantina.

Army gunners also rained fire on the residential district of Ashrafiyeh in the heart of east Beirut. Capture of Ashrafieyh's hilltop Ceccine Square would permit close-quarter shelling of militia headquarters.

South of Ashrafiyeh, the LF stronghold of Ain Roummanch, another residential district, has taken some of the heaviest army fire of the past two days.

Military sources said the district, where Lebanon's civil war began in 1975, was virtually surrounded but proving a tough nut to crack. Many buildings have deep bomb shelters originally built to protect residents from attacks across the nearby green line dividing east and west Beirut.

"Even children know how to fight in Ain Roummanch," said a retired army officer. "It has to be

Turkey blames Greece for diplomatic expulsions ion of high tension but more

ANKARA (R) — Turkey blamed Greece Sunday for their row over Muslims in Greece and said Athens held the key to restoring ties between the two NATO neighbours.

"What happens now depends on the response of Greece. They started the latest problem by declaring one of our diplomats persona non grata," a Foreign Minis-try official said.

We hope that from now on everything will be calm between the two countries," he said.

Turkey has given Greece's consul-general in Istanbul a week to leave in retaliation for the expulsion of a Turkish diplomat in the Greek town of Komotini, where 19 people were injured seven days ago in clashes between Greeks and ethnic Turks.

Greece said it was expelling Komotini Consul-General Kemal Gur because Ankara insisted on

calling the Muslim minority in Greece "fellow countrymen" and "citizens of Turkish origin."

Greece describes the 120,000 Muslims in the region, under Ottoman rule until 1913, as Greek Muslims. Many of them are in the Komotini region of western Thrace.

The expulsions were the first in at least three decades between the two countries, who have come close to war over such issues as the 1974 Turkish invasion of Cyprus and a 1987 dispute over the Aegean Sea.

Turkish officials said the latest

row had derailed, at least temporarily, political rapprochement which started in the Swiss resort of Davos two years ago But Ankara-based Western di-

plomats said the dispute could soon blow over. "Greeks and Turks tend to get

very excited and give the impress-

often than not it never comes to much and is contained," one diplomat said. A Turkish newspaper col-

umnist accused Greece of "creating a storm in a teacup" with anti-Turk sentiment before eneral elections in April. Turkey last week accused Greeks of using brute force against the minority in Komotini

and made an international appeal

to protect the human rights of Muslims in Greece. There are also about 1.5 milhon ethnic Turks in Bulgaria and 1,000 in Romania. Some Turks also referred to "kinsmen" in Soviet Azerbaijan during the re-

cent turmoil there. Meanwhile Ankara has pro- tant act of political revenge." tested to Athens over the detenfishermen by a Greek patrol, Turkish television said Saturday. row with Turkey.

The report, monitored by the **British Broadcasting Corporation** (BBC), quoted the Turkish Foreign Ministry as saying the two Turks had been fishing inside Turkish waters off Ayvacik. . . It said they were taken to the island of Mitilini. It said the

Turkish protest was made to the Greek ambassador in Ankara. Greece accused Turkey Sunday of breaking international law by expelling the Greek consul-general in Istanbul after Athens ordered out a Turkish diplomat.

Foreign minister Antonis Samaras said in a statement that the expulsion of Greek Consul-General Elias Klis was "impossible to justify according to international law, arbitrary, and a bla-

Samaras cancelled a press contion at gunpoint of two Turkish ference Sunday to confer with Greek political leaders on the

Terror, hunger stalk besieged south Sudanese city

By Dalia Baligh The Associated Press

KHARTOUM - Relief workers evacuated from Juba. Sudan's beleaguered southern capital, described a city of panic, terror and fear.

Prevented from fleeing by well-fed and -armed soldiers, scores of thousands of people weak with hunger desperately dig foxholes and trenches to escape shrapnel from rebel

"Juba has become a death trap," said Irishman Daniel Eiffe. "Peocole live in terror from the shelling. This is a whole new dimension. "At first we only had to

contend with the hunger." Eiffe, who works for ACORD, a London-based development and relief organisation, flew to Khartoum with three other Westerners in an evacuation project using air-craft of the United Nations. Fourteen other Westerners expected to join the airlift flew instead on a private agency's plane to Nairobi, Kenya.

There, an Italian physician said the 250,000 inhabitants live in fear of food riots if minute quantities of sustenance reaching the city are cut off and the meager stocks run out.

Also, he spoke of widespread dread of urban warfare in Juba's streets if the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) ends its long siege of the city with a military advance. Fear is exacerbated by the signoff of hroadcasts from the clandestine rebel radio statison: "Black people he ready."

John Garang, a renegade army colonel, sent his Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) into the southern bush in early 1983. He accused the Arab Muslim-dominated central government of disciriminating against the ethnically African non-Muslim southerners and demanded economic, political and administrative changes favouring the

Sudan is Africa's largest country, as big as the United States east of the Mississippi River, and wretchedly poor. . Hundreds of thousands have died in the rebellion, mainly civilian victims of famine

caused by farmers' being

driven from their fields to seek

sanctuary in government-controlled places like Juba, 1,200 kilometres south of the capital

A small city, Juba is egregiously overcrowded. More than half its inhabitants, living in erude camps ou the peripheries, are displaced people. Juba has been shelled twice, on Jan. 21 and Jan. 26. Eiffe said at least 23 civilians died, including 13 Ugandar refugees, a 7-month-old baby and three old people whose

hearts gave out under fire. He said the shelling stopped all work, schools and even food distribution in Juba as people expected renewed attacks.

Distribution is so limited now, said Eiffe, that rations are half those considered minimal daily fare by international standard.

Since the government ban-ned relief flights in the south on Nov. 3 because of renewed fighting, some of the worst in the war, Juba's only source of food has been daily Sudan Airways flights chartered by the Lutheran World Federation in Nairobi.

The flights bring in 50-60

tonnes of food a day. To feed its population adequately, Juba needs 150 tonnes daily. "The Sudan Airways pilots are very brave, Eiffe said. "They fly in despite SPLA (missile) attacks on them.

"Thousands of people gather around the Sudan Airways office in Juba trying to get tickets out. They fly out around 80 to 100 Sudanese

On Jan. 29, rebel radio again advised Juba residents to evacuate to escape the shells that will fall again. Most of Juba's 80 to 120

expatriates have left to Nairobi, singly or in small groups, on the Lutheran World Federation flights. Project supervisor Bob Koepp said in Nairobi that 36 already flew out. A handful remain. Eiffe and his colleague, British national Garry Jones, said they intend

to return soon. There is too much that still needs to he done," Jones said. Eiffe said Juba residents crowded into his office, the Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development, begging for shovels and picks to dig bunkers to hid in. Others

fled to the deep banks of the Nile for protection. Still, he said, many were

wounded during the 45-minute

barrages that came from Juba's eastern outskirts. Some of the Western evacuces in Khartoum and Nairobi blamed both the army and the rebels for Juba's despera-

They said the rebels shelled Juha indiscriminately with anti-personnel rockets, which make a terrifying noises when they explode and burst into hundreds of pieces of maining shrapnel.

As for the army, evacuees said, it has thrown up a security cordon including landmines around the city. While this keeps out rebels, they said, soldiers refuse to let civilians leave, thereby keeping a pro-tective civilian umbrella for themselves.

One evacuee said many southerners in Juba sympathise with the rebel cause, but nobody can understand their purpose in shelling Juba. He said residents listen to government and rebel propaganda and feel trapped in the midle.
These evacuees spoke on

condition they not be identified by name or organisatin. The army has 9,000 to

10,000 troops in the Juba garriarmed civilians and militia. About 5,000 rebels are thought to surround the city, but military sources in Khartoum said they lack the firepower or manpower to take Juba.

Juba's market is almost nonexistent. Prices of the few goods available have skyrocketed far beyond the reach of all but the bandful of wealthy and the soldiers. 90-kilogramme sack of dura, the sorghum-like staple cereal of

the Sudanese, costs 2,000 Sudanese pounds (\$165), 15 times its normal price of 130 pounds (\$10.75). An average salary in Sudan is 400-500 pounds (\$35-41), but most of Juba's inhabitants have

no jobs. "A few weeks ago, foot was the major concern," Eiffe said. "Now that's changed, and it's terror from shelling.

"The food is diminishing.

We're at a very early point of malnutrition. But if the planes keep coming in, Juba will

JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME ONE

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15:45	Children programmes
18:00	Children programmes News summary in Arabic
18:05	World News
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20.00	News in Arabic
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CHURCHES

St. Many of Nasareth Church Swelfieb Tel. 810740 St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590. Church of the Assuspciation 637440. De in Suile Church Tel. 661757 Terranuta Church Tel: 622366 Church of the Annunciation Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543. an Catholic Church Tel. m Orthodex Church Tel. den Orthodox Church Tel. 771751. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932. WEATHER

PRAYER TIMES Bulletin supplied by the Department of

It will be partly cloudy in general and there will be a chance for scattered showers. Winds will be southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with possible scattered showers

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman 3/13 Aqaba 10/20 Deserts 3/15	ZARQA: Dr. Salah Al Safarini
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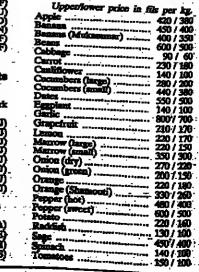
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (18):3200-5, where it should always be verified. ABRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

**QUEEN ALIA** 

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

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### WFP to extend highlands project for five more years

AMMAN (J.T.) — Poor reinfall in Jordan, limited funds for proects, an increase in the population growth rate and memployment have prompted the World Food Programme (WFP), which is affiliated to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisa-tions (FAO), to extend a project for the development of the high-land agricultural regions of Jordan for five more years, according to agricultural engineer Salem Ekour, the project director.

Ekour was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as saying that the WFF would spend \$26 million over the coming five years starting from April 1990 in extension to the development project, which has been going on

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for more than two decades.

The WFP assistance, Ekour said, will be in the form of flour, sugar, cooking oil, dates and dried milk assistance to the farmers whose lands are involved in the project.

WFP assistance to the highland agricultural regions in Jordan is now in its fourth phase and the new plans entail reclaiming 150,000 domms of land, Ekour said. He said that the project entails removing stones, planting fruit trees, building stone and barbed wire fences, drilling artesian wells and roads.

For the first time in the project's history, domestic animals will be brought to be raised around the homes of farmers in the rural regions which will also be grown with animal feed, especially in the first three years, to involve women in husbandry work and to collect manure. to fertilise the fields and provide sufficient protein food for the

farmers' families, he added. The new phase of the project which is concentrated in the high-land areas of Irbid, Jerash, Salt, Amman, Alloun, Zarqa, Mada-ba, Karak, Mafraq, Taffieh and Maan, is expected to benefit

"At least 7,500 poor farm households stand to benefit from it," according to Ekour.

The main aim of the project is to stop soil erosion and produce fruits, according to Ekour.

According to WFP officials

ere, the food assistance would help compensate farmers for the temporary loss of income when they switch from wheat crop to fruit production.

#### Requirements

Referring to the terms required for a farmer to be involved in such project. Ekour said the land should be well-marked plot and no less than four dununs in area, but not exceeding 50 dumms, and that annual rainfall on theland should not be less than 250 millimetres and should not have benefitted from earlier development schemes.

But these preconditions could change depending on the WFP's plans and advice, he said. However, the Ministry of Agriculture will insue regulations about these conditions soon, Ekour

According to WFP officials. earlier phases included the construction of windbreakers, farm buildings and cisterns. This time fodder crop will be planted as a pilot project in order to better integrate livestock raising with rain-fed farming.

### NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Lower House panels to meet

AMMAN (Petra) - The Lower House of Parliament's Health and Environmental Safety Committee meets Monday to discust laws related the Jordan Dentists Association, the Jordan medical board and the National Medical Institution. The House's Palestine and Occupied Territories Committee will Tuesday resume discussions on the effects of Jordan's disengagement from the West Bank. Also the House's Financial Committee will meet Wednesday to discuss income tax laws.

### Qaisi reports on anti-drug talks

AMMAN (Petra) - Brigadier Hashem Al Qaisi, director of the Arab Anti-Narcotics Bureau, returned to Amman Sunday after representing the Council of Arab Interior Ministers at the 26th ting drugs held in Vienna on Jan. 24 and 25. Qaisi and other Arab representatives coordinated their stands concerning several issues, particularly backing demands by Syria, Bahrain and Qatar to join the sub-committee and demanding Arabic be adopted as a working language besides English by the sub-committee. The sub-committee discussed managed by the sub-committee discussed by t tee discussed means to counter drug sanuggling operations and the implementation of a United Nations agreement to combat drugs.

### information experts continue meetings

AMMAN (Petra) - Specialists entrusted with following up the implementation of resolutions adopted by inter-governmental conference on information policies continued discussions Sunday and reviewed two working papers. The first, presented by Dr. Nabil Al Dajani, dealt with the importance of accurate statistical data in developing the information process at the Arab level. The second paper, presented, by Dr. Karim Al Wa'er, dealt with the realities and needs of information training in the Arab World.

### QAF to attend meeting on women

AMMAN (Petra) — The Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) will take part in a conference on scopes for better life for women scheduled to begin in Alexandria, Egypt, Tuesday. The three-day conference will discuss health and educational needs and legal rights of 12- to 20-year-old girls. Taking part in the conference are 30 women working in social and legal services fields, government institutions and information in the Arab countries. The QAF will be represented at the conference by In'am Darwish and Taghreed Atiyeh.

### Architectural exhibition opens

AMMAN (J.T.) — An architectural engineering educational exhibition was opened Sunday at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST). The week-long exhibition of works by Ja'sfar Touqan includes architectural designs and photographs as well as models in Jordan and other Arab countries.

### RSS to conduct cement tests

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) will conduct periodic laboratory tests on products of the Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC), according to an agreement recently signed between the RSS and JCFC. The tests will include ordinary portland cement, sulphate resistant cement, and portland pozzolan

### WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- $\Rightarrow$  A plantic act exhibition which includes paintings, sculptures and ceramic works at the Spanish Cultural Centre 5:00 p.m.
- An exhibition of photos of plays directed by Cherena, Mesguich, Mnouchkine, Planchon and others, at the French Cultural Centre.

### CONCERT

- A concert by French and player Mark Loopuyt at the Philadelphia Hotel -- 8:00 p.m.
- * An architectural exhibition by Ja'far Tougan at the Jordan University of Science and Technology.

A section of the section of



Frosty weather has taken its toll on agricultural crops in the Jordan Valley, prompting the authorities to accelerate moves towards introducing an

### 'Regular' platefuls end 'food strike' at hospital

By Ghadeer Taher Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN - 'A "food strike" at one of Amman's largest hospitals appeared to have ended Sunday after the authorities met the employees' demands for reinstatement of better quality food and "regular" portions. "It seems that the management has agreed to reverse its decision about the food served to the staff and patients because today the menu was better than last Thursday

when the issue triggered employees protest action, said a doctor working at Al Bashir government hospital. The doctor was one of the few who trickled into the hospital exfeteria Sunday evening after staying away for three days in a protest against the reduction in the quantity of food. Almost the entire staff were reported to

have staged a hunger strike Friday.

According to a management source ng to a management source at the hospital, "there is no problem anymore; everything has been

The strike was triggered when employees noticed "sizeable decrease" in the quantity of the meals served to them on Thursday, several doctors at the hospital said. According to information available to the Jordan Times, the reduction in quantity came after a contract between a catering company and the Al Bashir Hospital ended Jan. 31, and the National Medical Institution (NMI) assumed direct control of the staff cafeteria which serves over 800 meals every day to the hospital's doctors, nurses and general staff.

Under the terms of a new contract, the original

contractor, Wocare, is now in charge of preparing and serving food; the "basic products" are supplied by the NMI. The previous contract had assigned the total catering operations to Wecare.
"Now the National Medical Institution is in charge of

catering, and another company is involved," said two doctors who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity. However, the food was described by many staff members as of low quality and little until Sunday This evening it is better," said one of the doctors.

"The quality is good and the quantity served is also almost normal," he said.

No authoritative spokesman for Wecare was available

However, one of its staff at the cafteria asserted that any of the petients to verify this charge.

AMMAN (Petra) - The Nation-

al Medical Institution (NMI) in

Jordan believes that the current

crisis over the shortage of medi-

cine in the market is largely due to

a dispute between the Ministry of

Health and local drug stores, according to a senior NMI offi-

The ministry wants to retain

the same prices for medicines

while the drugstores are deman-

ding a higher price because they

say that the drugs were bought for higher prices, NMI Deputy

Director General Badic Qawas-

meh told Petra. "The best solu-

tion for the problem is floating

the drug prices and not creating a

parallel market for selling medi-

Qawasmeh said that NMI hos-

pitals did not have any medicine

shortage and all those entitled to

health services can assured of

pharmacies is the sole responsi-bility of the Ministry of Health

which is now trying to find a solution for the dispute with the

drugstores," Qawasinch added.

Different types of medicine in

large quantities are now lying in

drugstores in Amman awaiting

the end of the dispute and an agreement on pricing, Petra said.

AMMAN (J.T.) — A scientific

workshop on the operational

tools used in conducting systema-tic monitoring and surveillance of

child-growth and development is

going to be held at the Jordan University of Science and Tech-

nology (JUST) on Thursday and

The Department of Commun-

ity Medicine and Public Health of

the School of Medicine at the

university is the organiser and spousor of the workshop. The

activity may be recognised as one

step forward in promoting the

concept of "continuous medical

education," according to a uni-versity press release. It comes in

accordance with the recently

evolving attention towards a pre-

ventive strategy that aims at

securing better chances for child

health and development, the

will be physicians of maternal and

child beaith centres under the

The recipients in the workshop

press release said.

"Any shortage of medicine in

sufficient amounts of medicine.

cine," Qawasmeh said.

NMI blames ministry,

drugstores for shortage corporation

In the past four months, NMI distributed large quantities of

medicine to health centres oper-

ated by the Ministry of Health

and to private hospitals, including

Al Khalidi, Al Quds and Luzmila

hospitals, "although this is not an

NMI responsibility," Qawasmeh-

now adopted a rationalisation

policy concerning the dispensing of medicine at all hospitals to

avoid waste which in certain cases

reached upto 30 per cent. NMI bonght JD 7 million

worth of medicine in 1988. But.

at present currency rates the con-

signment is worth JD 13 million,

By acquiring substantial quan-tities before the devaluation of

the dinar, NMI has saved a great

amount of hard currency for the

Qawasmeh said that the NMI has completed a study for renting

a number of hospitals owned now

by the private sector so as to

channel maternity cases to them

in light of the congestion in NMI

pitals for all of Irbid is not enough

and the NMI plans to set up a

hospital in Kura in the Irbid

health directorate of Irbid. Later,

those physicians will act as train-

ers to the body of midwives and

health workers attached to these

The supervision over the work-

shop activities will be the respon-

sibility of a group of teaching staff

members in the Department of Community Medicine; these are

Professor Dr. Sa'ad S. Hijazi (Dean of the Faculty of Medicine), Professor Nahed Kamel,

Dr. Ra'eda Qutob, and Ibrahim

Among the training elements which will be discussed and prac-

tised in this workshop are: The

technique used in assessing

growth, statistical demonstration

of growth data, local factors in-

finencing child growth, the high

risk groups prone to growth fai-lures in the community, and the

standard screening tests used in

screening for developmental de-

lays at early childhood.

Qawasmneb said that two hos-

Oawasmeh said.

country, he said.

hospitals.

JUST seminar to review

child growth surveillance

However, he added, NMI has

"only a few of the hospital employees had stayed away."
But this was immediately challenged by several members
of the staff who said "everybody showed solidarity and boycotted the cafeteria."

Explaining the reasons behind the NMTs original decision to reduce the quantity of food served at Al Bashir Hospital, an NMI source said that earlier it used cost JD 1.40 per meal at the hospital, "but now with the devaluation of the dinar by over 40 per cent and rising food prices the same meal is costing JD 2.80."

According to a source close to the dispute, "obviously, the NMI wants to maintain the JD 1.40 price so it reduced the portions and quality in order to remain within its original budget."

"But, the net result was reduced food portions, which the 800 or so employees of the bospital protested with their so-called 'food strike'," said the source, who preferred to remain anonymous.

The source said the NMI move to assume control of catering applied to all hospitals under its control. But no unter moves were reported from other hospital any other than Al Bashir Hospital.
Dr. Abdul Salaam Majali, director of NMI, could not

reached for comment Sunday. According to numerous accounts by Al Bashir staff members and patients, the change in food, both "in terms of quality and quantity," was "drastic."

"A breast of chicken which used to be served to one person was split among two or three," said a young intern. "We used to have one small container each of yoghurt, and this was reduced a couple of spoonfuls. tead of a decent portion of salad, we had to grope to find tomatoes and cocumbers," be said.

Another doctor said that breakfast consisting of an egg

and a piece of bread for doctors on-call was stopped and "the tea in the morning was no longer available."

"The shop outside the hospital did booming business over the last three days," he said.

A shopkeeper near the hospital confirmed the account. Agreeing to be quoted only as "Abu Suleiman," the shopkeeper said: "My business during the last three days was as much as three weeks in normal times," Patients were also affected by the reduction in food at the bospital, according to some staff members. "Even the patients were getting low quantity food that simply was not enough." The Jordan Times could not interview

Tourism

reports

record

profits

Al Hassan.

1989, he said.

United States.

said.

AMMAN — The Tourism Invest

ment Corporation (TIC) made

record profits from its operations

in 1989, amounting to JD 1.7 million, the highest figure since the corporation's establishment,

according to TIC Director Ismail

Hassan said that profits in 1988 amounted to JD 599 373 and JD 219,000 in 1987. This year the

corporation is bound to make as

much profits as those gained in

Hassan told the Jordan Times that the TIC could do all it can to

improve performance despite the

current economic recession and

Hassan expected the tourism

industry to receive a boost next

month with the arrival of large

tourism to orient Jordanians on

place of interest, such as

archaeological sites and spas as well the Dead Sea.

The corporation will set up

difficulties in tourism.

### Workshop debates agriculture insurance AMMAN (Petra) - Prospects insurance following the floods 1986-1990 five year plan provided for applying agricultural insur-ance in Jordan will be discussed that swept some parts of the country, especially the Jordan

by officials and specialists from Jordan and specialised organisations during a two-day workshop, which was opened in Amman

Ministry of Agriculture officials said the workshop, orga-nised by the ministries of agriculture and planning in cooperation with the West German technical cooperation agency, would deal with the matter of insurance in view of dangers to crops brought about by natural causes like drought, frost, floods, fires, disease, locusts and others.
Ministry of Agriculture Secret-

ary General Sami Sunna told the opening session of the workshop, being held at Amra Hotel, that agricultural insurance was one of the most feasible elements that help stabilise the agricultural sector in Jordan. There have been some studies about this matter but the government has not yet taken any practical steps for adopting this kind of insurance,

He noted that His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's call on the concerned authorities to give due attention to agricultural

Valley, in the past years prompted the Ministry of Agriculture to seriously consider insurance against agricultural losses and

The floods caused extensive damage to crops and homes of small farmers in the Jordan Valley and other areas of Jordan.

Following the floods, the ministry set up a special technical committee grouping representa-tives of the ministry and other sectors involved in agriculture to draw up proposals for the new endeavour, Sunna added. He said that the report recommended agricultural insurance, but there are obstacles in implementing the

The idea of insurance is still ambiguous for farmers who have their own social traditions, and the ministry has been lacking qualified staff to conduct insurance," Sunna said. "Now it is possible to commence implementing such endeavour, which will no doubt benefit the majority of farmers," he added.

Dr. Safwan Touqan, secretary general of the Ministry of Planning, told the session that the for promoting agriculture in Jordan on a large scale and for improving farmers' income, increasing the country's output and

protecting the environment.
Agricultural insurance, Touqan added, "plays a vitai role m increasing agricultural output, helps to bring stability to farmers, encourages the private sector to get more involved in farming, reduces movement of people from rural to urban areas and minimises dependence on gov-ernment subsidies."

Taking part in the workshop are delegates from the ministries of agriculture, industry and trade and planning as well as the Agri-cultural Credit Corporation, the Agricultural Marketing Organisation, the Jordan Cooperative Organisation, the Jordan Valley Farmers Association, the Jordanian Insurance Companies Association, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Association of Banks in Jordan, the Central Bank of Jordan, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development.

### Tawjihi results expected today

AMMAN (J.T.) - The results of

Jordan News Agency, Petra, Obeidat said the results, which will be distributed to schools in all regions, had been delayed for six days this year awaiting the announcement of Tawjihi results in the occupied territories.

Obeidat described the results of the scientific stream as "good", with the least average grade for English language at 70 per cent and rising as high as 92.8 per cent for some students in

the least grade for English at 40 per cent while the bighest grade was 74.1 per cent for Islamic education. Results for the commercial stream were good with the least average grade at 53.1 per cent while the highest was 93.5 per cent, according to Obesidat.

The agricultural stream stu-dents did "very well" in the ex-amination, with the least grade at 62.3 per cent and the highest at 100 per cent and the industrial

groups of foreign tourists from Finland, Italy, France and the average grades ranged between 70 to 80 per cent. The corporation, Hassan said, is also encouraging domestic

sit for the second and last examination for the 1989-1990 scholastic year; but those who fail in any subject can take make-up examinations in subsequent examinations.

hotels and a resthouse in the ancient Nabatean city of Petra this year and will improve services to attract more visitors, he

the mid-year Tawjihi examinations taken by students of the second secondary class last month will be announced Monday by the Ministry of Education, which organised the examinations for all government and private schools in the Kingdom, according to an announcement made Sunday by Dr. Mohammad Sayel Obeidat, the ministry's director of examinations and evaluation.

In a statement carried by the

A total of 66,302 male and female students took the examinations, up from nearly 60,000 in the last scholastic year, sitting for seven different streams literature, science, commerce, agriculture, industrial nursing and hotel management.

Arabie language.

He said the results of the literary stream were not as good, with

stream was also good with the least grade at \$2.3 per cent and the highest at 100 per cent. Obeidat said that the general

In June, the same students will

According to Obeidat, 239 stu-

dents had their papers cancelled from last month's examinations for certain violations of regula-



### **Private sector details** sheep import proposal

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Supply Merchants Assciation in Jordan has submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Supply for the import of live sheep and cattle, which, it said, would save the country a total of JD 22 million differnce in price for imported slaughtered sheep or in government subsidies for meat.

The Association's deputy-president, Mohammad Deeb, said in. a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that Jordanian merchants had expressed readiness to import sheep from Australia and Uruguay to be slaughtered at the Amman slaughter house.

Each of the imported live sheep will not be more than two years of age and will not weigh more than 25 kilogrammes and will cost for \$45 or JD 30 each including freight to Aqaba, Deeb Deeb said that the price of a

kilogramme would reach JD .250, and a 30 per cent profit for all dealers would a make it JD 1:600 per kilo for the consumers. Deeb said the animals' hide

and bowels when sold can cover all the expenses of the importer and the cost of stabling and feed-The proposal was prompted by

the shortages of fresh meat imported from Bulgaria and Romamia due to recent upheavals in the two countries. To make up for the shortage of fresh meat, the Ministry of Supply has imported large quantities of frozen meat from New Zealand. The meat now sells for JD 1.500 a kilo, while local fresh meat is still in

short supply.
In comparing prices, Deeb said sold for JD 1.120 which means a needs.

Deeb estimated the annual loss in meat subsidy at JD 12 million.

Turning to beef and cow meat, Deeb said that the government was paying some JD 10 million in subsidies and in difference in prices. The ministry suggested that it could allow the private sector to import live cows to be slaughtered in Jordan in a similar manner, he said. A kilogramme of cow meat will arrive here at JD 1.200 and will be sold to the consumers for JD 1.60 with bone and JD 2.000 without bone, according to Deeb.

Deeb also suggested the creation of a company to ferry sheep to Agaba and said that the private sector, and investment funds could be involved in the operation, floating stables with a capacity of 120,000 heads of sheep

He said the creation of such company does not cost more than the toal amount of subsidy on meat for three years.

For its part, the Ministry of Supply welcomed the proposal that the private sector import live sheep but said importers should pay duty on each head of sheep entering Jordan contrary to what the merchants demanded. In his statement, Deeb said

that the government should not charge any duty on the imported sheep and can remove the subsidy on meat in return. The ministry issues licences for

merchants to import live sheep, but duties will be levied on the imports, according to a ministry official. He said that unless laws are changed nothing can be done about the duty charges.

Ministry of Agriculture offi-cials said Jordan had almost three in his statement that imported cials said Jordan had almost three fresh meat from Romania and million heads of sheep but not Bulgaria cost JD 1.600 a kilo and sufficient to cover the country's

#### Under the Patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein

On the Occasion of the 12th Meeting of The Executive Board of the Arab **Academy of Music** and the 1st Arab Music Rostrum

> The National Music Conservatory/ Noor Al Hussein Foundation

The French Cultural Centre/Amman present

> The French 'Ud Player Mark Loopuyt

in concert Main Hall/Philadelphia Hotel Monday, 5 February 1990, 8:00 p.m.

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Thursday

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### Process not in vain

EXAMINATION of the 1990 draft budget by the Finance Committee of the Lower House took 21 days followed by three full days of intense debate by the House itself. The deliberations ended by the expected approval of the budget by a majority of about three to one and only after a minor one per cent reduction of certain office expenses.

This does not necessarily mean that the lengthy democratic process was in vain. In fact, the budget was prepared with that process in mind, so the debate was both healthy and useful. When you have a strong army, it is more likely that you don't need to use it because your potential enemy has already taken note of your preparedness.

One has to point out though that the budget was not the Badran government's budget. It was drafted, approved by the Cabinet and referred to Parliament at least one week before Mr. Badran was asked to form his government.

The main winner of the parliamentary debate was the "economic correction programme" approved by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). For the first time the full text of the programme was made public, and despite the opposing voices here and there, the programme was effectively accepted or at least tolerated. The budget of 1990 was the second phase of the five-year programme, and a step forward in the direction of achieving its goals, mainly those aimed at lowering the deficit and moving towards self-

There is, however, a feeling that the budget did not do much in a direct way to alleviate unemployment, inflation, public consumption and encourage new investments. But the budget did a lot indirectly. The economic stability may spur confidence and investments which create jobs, and the reduced deficit will control inflation. The budget was and continues to be the major instrument in directing the Jordanian economy.

In a way, the approval of the budget was a renewed vote of confidence in the government. The remaining battle will be over some temporary economic laws which need to be offrmed, especially the income tax law which touches on the pockets where it hurts. Here again, we don't expect a major problem. The government seems to be doing very well in handling the legislature - for the time being at any rate.

### JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Sunday again discussed the influx of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine and said that proponents of such immigration tend to present it as a solution for a humanitarian problem. The paper noted that those backing the immigration process tend to forget that more Jews in the occupied territories means a stronger Israel, militarily and politically and that such immigration will encourage Israel to bold on to the occupied Arab land and continue its aggression and its inhuman practices. The paper said that the Arabs have to deal with the situation on two fronts: to hold a summit where discussion should lead to a collective action on the international level and to launch a wide scale campaign to convene the long expected international conference where a lasting solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict can be found. The Arabs want a peace that can ensure the return of all Arab rights and lands in exchange for this peace with Israel, said the paper. Although the Arabs realise that Israel would most certainly try to oppose any international move for a lasting settlement, they ought to move in all directions and take the initiative before it is too late, the paper concluded.

Writing in Al Ra'i daily Mahmond Al Rimawi says that the United States finds acute pleasure in watching the Palestinians suffering as a result of their deprivation of human rights, and delighted at watching more Jews converging on the occupied Palestinian land to settle on Arab territory. The writer says that Washington does not only support the immigration of Soviet Jews, but is trying to facilitate and encourage this immigration which could destroy the Palestinian people's aspiration for freedom. Washington turns a deaf ear to all protests from the Arabs and the world community, and pretends that U.N. Security Council resolutions since 1948, which call for the return of the Arab population to their homeland in Palestine do not exist, the writer notes. Rimawi says Washington realises that the cause of tension in the Middle East is Israel's atrocities and inhuman practices in the occupied Arab territories, but still continues to provide the Jewish state with all means to consolidate its hold over Arab territory. Furthermore, Washington finds no way for explaining and defending its racist policies and its continued support for the criminal actions committed by its ally in occupied Palestine, said the writer. He says one can only hope for changes to happen and new developments world-wide which could offer the Arabs a chance to regain their right.

One can only describe the debates that preceded the endorsement of the 1990 budget by parliament as an exercise of democracy in the full sense of the word, Sawt Al Sheab Arabic daily said Sunday. The paper noted that Prime Minister Mudar Badran, in his replies to the deputies' remarks, shed more light on the situation in Jordan and explained that the Kingdom has limited means. This, the paper said, gives clear indication to the ordinary citizens that they ought to act with responsibility to help both the executive and legislative authorities. But the keenness displayed by both authorities during the debate on the need to safeguard public funds and to rationalise spending at all levels gives assurance that everything will be under control from now on; and no aggravation of the financial and economic situation could be forthcoming, the paper added. It said that the government and parliament both shoulder a great responsibility seeking the people's trust; and they ought to act accordingly and to rise to the

Weekly Political Pulse

# Jordan needs to reassess school system

A TRAGEDY befell Jordan's school system last week when an eight-year-old student was killed at the hands of his teacher at one of the public schools in Shobak. The tragedy has been compoundon the public schools in Shools. The tragedy has been compounded by the fact that that murder did not stir much public outcry. There were very few voices that condemned the killing and our parliamentarians, who pride themselves in addressing issues of public interest, did very little if any to demand even an explanation of the incident. Such an omnous and regretable lack of interest in what goes on in our schools is something that is bothering many parents. Whatever the true reasons that lie behind this indifference, we must now renew the call for a public debate of the broader subject of schools and school curricula.

The very fact that a child was killed in one of Jordan's schools in this last decade of the twentieth century is a grim reminder that all is not well in our schools. The revamping of the country's school and higher education systems is an urgent and pressing matter in view of the rapid changes within and outside Jordan and the giant leaps forward in thought, science and technology. Putting student-teacher relations on a sounder and more enlightened plateau is all the more urgent in view of the hypothesis that the death of the young student last week is just the tip of the iceberg that tells a horrifying story about continuing mistreatment of students of all ages. There is no doubt in my mind that there are

public schools that go on unrecorded or documented. The only way to deal with this horrendous phenomenon is to have the new spirit of democracy which has permeated life in the country succeed in making a beach-head on our school system where tyranny and oppression still reign supreme.

One fundamental aspect of democratisation of the school and university life is surely the promotion and development of freely elected student governments on campuses. Through this route, Jordanians can achieve two objectives: elevate student-teacher relations to a democratic plateau and train Jordanians in the art of democracy as early as possible to enable them later in life to practise democracy in a mature and responsible manner. The country has no right to criticise the repeated manifestation of irresponsibility or immaturity by some voters or their elected representatives or question their sophistication or awareness as long as Jordanians are deprived of opportunities to learn the art of porary citizenship in the formative years of their lives.

The killing of the young student last week also calls for the consideration and treatment of the broader subject of child abuse in the Kingdom. There is no doubt that child abuse of all sorts and forms is rampant in our life and that the majority of child abuse

cases still go on undetected and unresolved. There is an urgent need for a special legislation on this matter to fill the gaps and loopholes existing in laws governing children and their exploitation or abuse. In this vein, it would be in order to establish a quasi-private society to monitor and treat child abuse cases. Jordan is treaty-obligated to treat its children in a more humane and enlightened manner and it is high time that the long march towards healthier child treatment be started. The government should be encouraged to sign and ratify the recently adopted International Convention on the Protection of Children and incorporate its guidelines and provisions into Jordanian laws. Through respect of the letter and spirit of international and domestic legislation on child protection, the killing of students or the abuse of children would have a real chance to stop.

The chagrin of the entire country over the death of the eight-year-old student can never be meaningful and potent enough to redress the entire issue to the satisfaction of all Jordanians unless and until Jordanian children are accorded the full attention, care and protection that they are naturally and legally entitled to. In this context, I would respectfully submit that the Kingdom dedicate a day for students to be called student day in which the entire country would honour them and commemorate the additional safeguards and protections accorded to them.

### Time to reduce American aid to Israel

By Jawad F. George

Jawad F. George is executive director of the National Association of Arab Americans, based in Washington.

Eastern Europe and Latin America have placed compelling demands on the United States for its foreign-aid dollars at a time when huge deficits have forced sizeable budget reductions and heavily burdened the American taxpayer. Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole has brought this conflict into focus for the American public with his bold statement that we must consider cutting the allotments of some countries to benefit others.

A seroius re-examination of the way in which the United States allocates its foreign aid has been sorely needed for many

Five countries now receive two-thirds of the U.S. foreign-aidbudget. One of the key causes of this inequity has been Congress practice of stipulating that specific sums be given to particular have developing economies with however, accounts for only part

MOMENTOUS developments in countries, without regard to the effect on U.S. commitments elsewhere. In recent years, this practice has tied the hands of the Bush administration and resulted in the termination of many necessary but unprotected assistance programmes worldwide at a time when aggregate funding levels for

U.S. foreign aid have declined. Dole has proposed a 5 per cent cut in aid to the five largest recipients - Israel, Egypt, Pakistan, the Philippines and Turkey. While all five should be expected to bear an equitable share of any future cuts in the aid budget, four of these countries share certain important characteristics that would justify current levels of aid. All four are populous nations with low per-capita GNP and millions of their people living at bare substance levels or on the edge of poverty. And all four a need for massive - start-up investments in basic industries

and infrastructure. Israel is the exception. It is a wealthy, developed nation with a high per-capita GNP and a high standard of living. It also maintains, at great-expense, an enormous military establishment that far surpasses that of any combination of its neighbours, and that includes chemical and nuclear weaponry and ballisitic-missiles technology. A prudent and equitable allocation of aid would require a larger reduction in assistance to Israel, relative to other

recipients. The disproportionate Israeli share of U.S. foreign aid represents an outlay of \$698 for every Israeli citizen, Compare that to the 1990 allocation for the other four: Egypt, \$43 per capita, Tur-key, \$11, Philippines, \$8, and

Pakistan, \$6. Since 1985 at least \$3 billion a year in U.S. economic and military aid has been allocated for Israel. This enormous sum,

This year, as in the past, Israel was the only recipient to acquire its aid in a lump-sum transfer at the beginning of the fiscal year. Unlike other countries, which must spend their military aid in the United States, Israel is allowed to spend \$400 million a year in Israel itself. U.S. law also stipulated that funds allocated to Israel be not less than the annual debt repayment from Israel to the United States government; a perquisite that many poorer nations

of the benefits Israel receives.

would welcome. Congress appropriated \$7.5 million that Israel can use as foreign assistance to third countries. And, from accounts earmarked for migration and refugee assistance, Congress stipulated that \$25 million was to be made available to Israel this year to assist the Soviet and other refugees resttling in Israel, though many other nations are experiencing much more

pressing refugee problems. How Israel uses those refugee assistance funds may raise serious questions about its commitment

to peace. Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir recently implied that Israel must retain the occupied West Bank to accomodate the influx of Soviet Jews, a position that is unquestionably contrary to

U.S. policy. Israel in recent years has been conducting numerous activities that undermine its claim to especially large amounts of U.S. foreign assistance. Among the most glaring examples: Israeli espionage against the United States, Israeli involvement in transferring ballistic missile technology to South Africa and its nuclear cooperation with Pretoria, Israel's refusal to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Israel's continued occupation of portions of Lebanon as well as the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan Heights and its human rights abuses of Arab under the occupation, Israeli failure to advance the peace process regarding the West Bank and Gaza, and the involvement of Israelis in notorious activities detrimental to U.S. in-

Under the terms of U.S. law, these actions ought to disqualify Israel from receiving any U.S. assistance whatsoever. Even if the continuation of aid to Israel is deemed in the national interest. such aid should be used as leverage to persuade Israel to adhere to the basic standards of human rights and international law, and to ineet the requirements of American laws. U.S. aid should not be given to Israel or any other recipient unconditionally.

Dole has done the American taxpayer a service by calling for a re-examination of U.S. aid allocations. But that re-examination should go beyond proposals to cut aid by simple formulas, it should include an assessment of whether foreign aid, which is an indispensable and worthy mechanism, is being used for purposes that are beneficial or detrimiental to U.S. interests. With so many countries desperate for scare U.S. assistance, not one dollar should be wasted. - Los terests in Colombia and Panama. Angeles Times:

## Mandela became world's most influential prisoner.

By Laurinda Keys The Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG, South Afri-- Nelson Mandela, given a life sentence for plotting sabotage to overthrow the South African government, became the world's most influential prisoner during what he described as "long, lonely, wasted years."

Unheard and unseen by the public since 1962, he nevertheless came to be the most admired leader among South African blacks, who consider him the embodiment of their quest for political freedom.

In the past, Mandela, 71, has rejected the government's repeated offers to release him if he would renounce violence or live in a tribal homeland. He said the government should renounce violence, end apartheid and unban his movement — the African National Congress.

On Friday in Cape Town, President F.W. de Klerk declared that the ANC was legal again and said Mandeia soon would be freed unconditionally.

After Mandela's historic meet-

ing July 5, 1989, with President P.W. Botha, a statement by the ANC leader was released by the prisons service and broadcast on government-run radio and televi-

He said he had not deviated "from the position I have taken over the past 28 years, namely that dialogue with the mass democratic movement and, in particular, with the African National Congress, is the only way of ending violence and bringing peace to our country."

I only would like to contribute to the creation of a climate which would promote peace in South Africa," Mandela said.

De Klerk replaced Botha in August 1989, and met with Mandela at his Cape Town office on Dec. 13, 1989, amid intense expectations that the prisoner could he freed in the new year.

Mandela regularly has enter-tained his family and streams of friends in a comfortable house at the Victor Verster prison farm in the wine-growing region of Paarl. He had been transferrred there on Dec. 6, 1988, after recovering from tuberculosis contracted at Pollsmoor prison in Cape Town in August.

Expectations of his release had been raised before, but each time the government balked at freeing the man many blacks believed should be their president.

Former Information Minister Stoffel van der Merwe said in July 1988 that Mandela had served enough time to pay for his crimes and that the only thing keeping ment's uncertainty about the and national security.

It was a tacit admission of what Botha had denied for years that Mandela was a political pris-

In 1985, Botha had allowed Zindzi Mandela to read her father's response to the latest offer of conditional release before a crowd in Soweto, the township outside Johannesburg where Mandela had rented a home since the 1940s.

"Only free men can negotiate. Prisoners cannot enter into contracts," Mandela said. "I cherish my own freedom dearly but I care even more for your freedom. Too many have died since I went to prison. Too many have suffered for the love of freedom. ...not only I have suffered during these

long, lonely, wasted years."

During his imprisonment Mandela was regarded as leader of the African National Congress, although the highest office he held before it was banned in 1960 was deputy president-general.

He was the first commander of its military wing, "Spear of the Nation," which he helped form in 1961 to engage in a programme of sabotage against South Africa's white-ruled government.

He subsequently toured Africa, receiving military training and explaining the ANC's cause. He was arrested after his return, in 1962, and sentenced to five years' hard labour for leaving the country illegally and inciting blacks to violate the law by striking.

Mandela told the court thatwhen his sentence was ended he would "take up again, as best I can, the struggle for the removal of those injustices until they are finally abolished once and for

"I have no doubt that posterity will pronounce that I was innocent, and that the criminals that should have been brought before this court are the members of

the... government," he said. In July 1963, while Mandela was at the Robben island maximum security prison near Cape Town, police uncovered the ANC's underground headquarters on a farm near Johannesburg and seized documents outlining plans for the guernilla campaign, including Mandela's diary.

In June 1964, he and seven

life in prison. "I do not deny that I planned sabotage," he said in his statement from the dock, "I did not plan it in a spirit of recklessness. nor because I have any love of violence. I planned it as a result of a calm and sober assessment of

co-defendants were sentenced to

arisen after years of tyranny, exeffect he would have on politics ploitation and oppression of my white university of the Witpeople by whites."

> of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. ...it is an ideal which I hope to live for and achieve, but if need be an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

> His wife, Winnie, jailed or banished through much of his imprisonment, said, "in each and every single letter he has written over the past 20 years and in each and every visit, he has always been confident that he will come out and lead his people to libera-

> During most of his 18 years on Robben island, Mandela endured substandard food, deprivation of news and reading material, and hard labour that included gathering seaweed and smashing rock.
> Yet he often wrote his wife that the hardest thing to endure was the treatment she received.

> He wrote that he sometimes wondered "whether any kind of commitment can ever be sufficient excuse for abandoning a young and inexperienced woman a pitiless desert."

> In April 1982, Mandela and five colleagues were transferred to Pollsmoor prison in a white suburb outside Cape Town. They shared a large cell where Mandela cultivated a vegetable garden and complained about the conditions. He was allowed to pursue his studies for an advanced law degree, which he received in early 1989, and eventually began. receiving uncensored newspapers and radio reports.

Mandela's communications with his wife and family were restricted to 40-minute visits and one 500-word letter per month, monitored to make sure only family matters were discussed On May 12, 1984, Mandela and his wife were allowed to embrace for the first time in 22 years.

Mandela was born July 18, 1918, the son of a tribal chief, and received a relatively privileged upbringing in Transkei, a Xhosa homeland the government has declared an independent republie. He attended Methodist schools and was admitted to the black university of Fort Hare in 1938, but was expelled in 1940 for leading a student strike with Oliver Tambo, now the ANC's exiled

To avoid an arranged tribal sarriage, Mandela fled to Johannesburg, where he worked as a policeman at a gold mine, as a law cierk, and for a real estate agency run by Walter Sisulu, later to be imprisoned with him. Man-

president.

him in prison was the govern- the political situation that had dela boxed as a heavyweight and waterstand. aterstand. He married a nurse, Evelyn

Mase, who bore him two daughters and two sons. One daughter died in infancy and one son was killed in a car crash in 1970. The couple divorced in 1955. Mandela, Tambo and Sisulu formed the ANC youth league in

1944, and Mandela became its president in 1950. He was chief organiser of the ANC's defiance campaign in 1952, encouraging people to break South Africa's racial separation laws.

He and Tambo formed the first

try and were charged in Decembanning orders, restricting his activities.

He continued to work secretly and was charged in December 1956 with treason, along with 155 other South Africans of all races who had supported the freedom charter, calling for a non-racial democracy and a socialist-based economy.

While on trial, he married social worker Winnie Nomzamo Madizekela, who bore him two black law partnership in the coundaughters, Zenani and Zindzi.

He helped conduct the defence ber 1952 under the suppression of in the treason trial, which ended Communism act for their part in in 1960 with acquittals for all the civil disobedience campaign. defendants. Mandela immediate-He received the first of many ly went underground for fear would be rearrested and spent the

next 17 months as a fugitive. After a planned two-day nationwide strike was crushed by police, he and a small group of ANC colleagues decided on milit-

ary action.

"All opportunities for peaceful agitation and struggle have been closed to us," he said. "Africansno longer have the freedom to even stay peacefully in their houses in protest against the oppressive policies of the govern-

### South Africa's de Klerk crosses Rubicon of apartheid reform

By Brendan Boyle

CAPE TOWN — President F.W. de Klerk has crossed the Rubicon of apartheid reform that defeated his predecessor and the rewards are already beginning to flow in.

De Klerk began in his speech to parliament on Friday to make the concessions that his autocratic predecessor, P.W. Botha, could never bring himself to make.

Speaking on the first anniversary of his election as leader of the ruling white National Party and after six months as president, de Klerk unbanned 36 opposition groups including the African National Congress (ANC).

He also promised to free black nationalist Nelson Mandela from jail soon and announced a range of reforms that have long been demanded by South Africa's 27 million voteless blacks.

De Klerk appeared largely to meet the international expectations that Botha disappointed in August 1985, when he said in a disastrous speech that he had "crossed the Rubicon".

The world judged that Botha had in fact turned back at the Rubicon and his speech set the South African rand tumbling against world currencies and prompted international banks to call in loans to South Africa.

Debilitating economic sanc-tions followed as Botha continued to resist real political reform and hundreds of foreign companies withdrew from South

Botha's Rubicon speech be-

came the turning point of his 10-year career and resulted eventually in his defeat last year by de Klerk, who has proved to be a more courageous reformer.

"I think de Klerk has crossed the Rubicon. He has certainly gone right out into the deep, said professor John Barratt of nesburg University's Institute for International Affairs. "There is going to he very wide

applause. It is going to have a very positive effect on South Africa's international relations, he said.

Western diplomats acknowledged that de Klerk had gone much further than any of them expected and said their govern-ments would be obliged now to support his reform initiatives.

This speech demands a response both from the West and from the ANC, which is going to have to revise its tactics," one

Anti-government elerichop Desmond Tutu comended de Klerk for his courage

in instituting reform. I want to give him very considerable credit. He was not given us everything, but he has gone a very long way along the road, Tutu told a news conference. Barratt said he expected the

examine its anti-spartheid sanctions and hold off on further economic measures against Pre-

European governments might be slower to repeal existing measures against apartheid, but they would have to review plans for further punitive restrictions on trade with South Africa. He said British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher probably would accept an invitation to become the first Western head of. government to visit South Africa

since 1960

Thatcher has already invited de Klerk to Britain for talks and accolades have started to pour in from Europe and Africa, with Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda complementing him on "a job well started".

Kaunda is the head of Southern Africa's important frontline nations - six black countries championing Africa's fight against South Africa's white minority

Mandela's wife, Winnie, a prominent activist in her own right, said after hearing about de Klerk's speech: "We are not prepared to accept a bone with no

She said de Klerk should have ended the three-year-old national state of emergency and 40 years of enforced racial segregation.

But young blacks in Cape Town and Johannesburg appeared to differ as they took to the streets in a spontaneous celebration that was not seen even when de Klerk released several top ANC leaders from prison late last year.

Zach de Beer, a leader of the anti-apartheid Democratic Party, said he listened to de Klerk "with a marvellous sense of relief".

"Aims we have fought for, sometimes under very severe pressure, are now being achieved," he said.

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# Bravo and applause for the beginners

On Saturday evening the Armed Forces Symphony Orchestra performed in front of an audience of specialists. The performance drew mixed reactions. Nelly Lama was there:

THE first concert held on the occasion of the 12th meeting of the executive board of the Azab Academy of Music (Arab League) and the 1st Arab music rostrum organised by the Interna-tional Music Council (UNESCO) was performed by the Symphony Orchestra of the Jordanian Armed Forces,

Attendance was not very encouraging although this time, it was a matter of quality rather than quantity. Professional musicians from all over the Arab World, here to attend the meeting and rostrum, formed a great part of the audience. A number of expatriates and some fellow musicians were there, but many concert habitnes did not make an

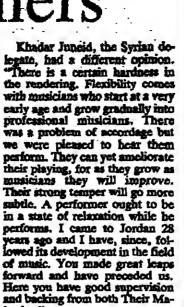
Guy Huot, secretary general of the International Music Council found the performance a "absolutely amazing that grown-ups have learned to play instruments that they were not used to playing before, the orchestral instruments are the most difficult. I think they come out of it with flying colours. It is not easy for someone who already has certain musical habits to acquire new ones and I think they do very well. They obviously have a very dedicated conductor who treats them well and knows what he expects of them and how much he can expect from them. Within the orchestra there are some very musical players. It is admirable that an Armed Force will have a symphony orchestra. You usually think of 'bands' when you think

of an army. Asked about intermittent mistakes made by the orchestra, he said: "Of course, that's inevitable, they are in a way the equivalent of a student orchestra except that students usually grow with their instruments whilst in their case they were not allowed to grow, they suddenly were grown ups and had to pretend they were starting new instru-ments. It is inevitable that they

Asked whether a section of the orchestra was better than the other he said: "There is a very good first firste. Obviously, there are some problems, the winds are better, it is also easier to play wind instruments rather than stringes. Sometimes the violins come out quite good and so do the celli. It is a matter of coaching, I don't know how long they have been together but few years are not enough for an orchestra made of basically non professionals to suddenly become rofestionai."

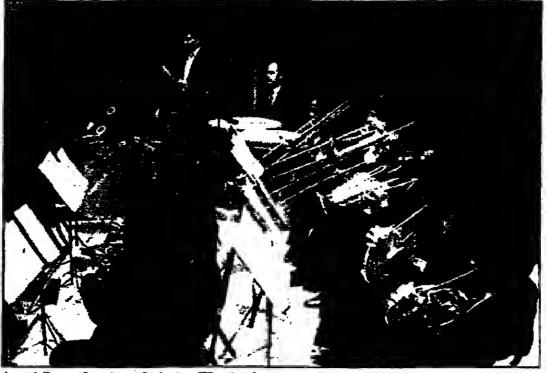
And did the quality of the instruments used inhibited the sound? "You could have the best violin in the world and unless you have proper coaching that does not matter and if you had a great violinist with a bad instrument, he would still get good sounds out of it. I think they have to keep on getting coached, to practice everyday taking lessons. It's a long

As I pointed out to him that he was very positive in his answers he assured me that it was the only way. "These people must devote so much of their time. It is very difficult for them. It is a very ambitious programme that they are doing, what they need is extra coaching and those who are better should coach the others. They should occasionally bring people from the conservatory to play with them and have sessions with them." When someone suggested that the members of the orchestra were not full-time musicians he exclaimed." Then they have even more merit. It is a miracle they



He believes that the National Music Conservatory, is putting great efforts towards creating s new generation of artists. "It is a great thing that they are forming a string section, an essential prerequisite to forming an orchestra. They are widening the horizons of these youths. Music needs to be supervised by knowledgeable people. Going back to the youth-ful symphony orchestra, they are good people but they still need a lot of work."

Manir Bashir, secretary general of the Arab Music Academy and head of the regional secretariat of the International Music Council, was pleased to see the Armed Forces Symphony Orchestra, a novelty in the field. of military music in the Arab World, 'This is a huge commitment and a difficult one. It needs time and practice and it has to be done with people who studied music on foreign instruments since childhood. It is essential to choose musical partitions that are in line with the performers' capebilities. With such compatibility the work can be performed well. I do encourage the symphonic orchestra and not criticise them, but I look on to ten years from now. What will become of them? I feel that if we introduce into this orchestra new elements, youths



Armed Forces Symphony Orchestra (File photo)

who were brought up with this mers should listen to professional kind of music, it will have great reverberations in the development of the orchestra."

Asked about the repertory that was then performed he said: "Difficult, difficult. The strings needed better peformance, they needed to cope with the speed. They need easier pieces." Basem Hanna Petros, second

oldest player in the Iraqi Symphonic Orchestra and one of its founders, a cellist by profession, commented: "This is a military orchestra that aims at discipline and precision. As a beginning, it is very good, but it should be fed with civilian elements especially where the strings are concerned, for they need a good violin leader to teach them interpretation. The orchestra has no problem with note reading, but it needs a little refining to reach better intonstion. I am pleased to find a second symphotic orchestra in

the Arab World." Petros named different orchestras that existed in the Arab World but suffered losses because of wars, as in Lebanon, or other

The Iraqi National Symphony Orchestra is the most solid one. It is backed by the government. We are all locals except for few foreign professors from the Institute of Music who fulfil our needs." He suggested that the perfor-

recordings of the pieces they play. He also expressed the wish to have them participate in a festival where all Arab symphonic orchestras perform, compete and exchange ideas. It would be a great challenge to make them

Among the audience was an old friend of Jordan, Irvin Yeaworth. Yeaworth heads communication strategies, a company that makes a variety of programmes to suit the needs of different kinds of audiences around the world. They brought the Princeton Chamber Orchestra to Jordan last year. Yeaworth and his wife had just arrived in Jordan. On their way from the airport they read an announcement in the newspaper about the concert. They dropped their luggage at the hotel and rushed to attend the concert.

"This group is remarkable." he commented. "We think that what is happening here is amazing. I watched the men play and I thought, how did they tune their ears to this music?' They did not grow up with it. For people who have no background in Western music to train their ears to this kind of sound and learn the instruments and work together under the programme that is established here is remarkable. Every other culture where you a mission to fulfill

have this kind of music, you start with children and the better ones are selected to go on and on. They work and work. Some fall by the wayside, others persevere. What happens here is that this group of men all had to come along at the same time and that has never been done before that I know of in the history of music. We think it's a remarkable achievement. When someone is doing a step in a progression, you judge each step for what it should be. This orchestra has a good piece to travel but they have gone so far. Some areas need to be. worked on, but we can't expect the same from this group of men that you would from someone who has been playing for ten years longer. When they played together with the Princeton Chamber Symphony, the American musicians had come from a European tradition, surrounding their whole lives with this kind of culture; they first sat together with some kind of apprehension but they quickly became dear friends as well as fellow musicians and they learned things from one another, which was very helpful."

It is a fact that Noor Al Hussein Foundation is procuring them with every opportunity to meet professional performers and teachers. The performers should not take this lightly for they have

## **Airline industry:** Plane crashes becoming more survivable

By Lawrence L. Knutson The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Aid disasters such as the Avianca Airlines crash on Long Island last week are becoming more survivable, in part because design and technical advances have made jet travel safer, many air safety experts say.

"The accident rate is improving. It's not more dangerous, it's getting better," says S. Harry Robertson, director of the Crash Research Institute in Tempe, Arizona. "Airplanes are getting safer as the newer generations come along. The rate of improvement is very significant."

Capt. Ed Arbon, who flew for

22 years with Trans World Airlines and is now an official of the Flight Safety Foundation, agrees. Some of the recent improvements do make the modern aircraft more survivable," Arbon

"Eighty to 85 per cent of recent crashes are survivable," says Drucella Anderson, a spokeswoman for the National Transportation Safety Board. "A lot of safeguards have been built into

Eighty-nine of the 161 passengers — more than haif — survived the crash of Avianca flight 52 into a hill on the north shore of Long Island.

Preliminary inquiries sugge the craft bad either run ont of fuel or had a very low supply when it crashed Jan. 25 night on its way to New York's John F. Kennedy international airport. There was no fire when the 23-year-old Bocing 707 crashed.

But the battle for air safety is far from over, even though air travel on the whole has become amazingly safe and millions of passengers are transported each year without incident.

Under new rules issued by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and prompted by the investigation of air crashes, passenger seats are being strengthened and have been covered with fire blocking material. The allowable level of toxic smoke and fames from burning aircraft' materials also has been reduced, and exit doors have been made more reliable to avoid jamming.

FAA spokesman Fred Farrar said Avianca, like other foreign quired to make some safety upgrades, such as providing fireretardant seat covers and lavatory smoke alarms, but it would not have been required to strengthen

The latter requirements still are being adopted for foreign airliners, Farrar said.

Arbon says that by the nature of its technology, the modern jet passenger liner is a safer plane than the piston aircraft it replaced.

"We used to lose engines fre-quently," he said. "The jetliner has a very reliable power plant. It also has a good guidance system, a good auto pilot; the electronics are much more reliable."

Robertson says improvements are continuing on "the ways in which airplanes are informed as to what is going on and how people on the ground control them."

An example, he says, is the wind shear blamed for the August 1985 crash of a Delta airliner near the Dallas-Ft. Worth airport.

"The people in the tower had no idea of what was going on," he contends. "Today they have better sensors out there. So that is improving.

Arbon said some 70 per cent of today's accidents are due to "the human factor," adding that it is there that the strongest efforts for improvement are now being

Ms. Anderson says the NTSB dates many of the improvements in air safety to the recommenda-tions made after its investigation of the deadly fire on June 2, 1983, aboard an Air Canada jetliner en route from Texas to Toronto.

Twenty-three people died aboard the plane, which made an emergency landing at the Greater Cincinnati airport. Some suffered fatal burns. Others died of smoke inhalation. The recommendations led to

the installation of fire blocking covers on passenger seats on all-commercial aircraft with 30 or more seats, automatic fire extinguishers in lavatories, halon fire extinguishers in the cockpit, smoke detectors in lavatories and new rules on cabin materials to make the cabin interiors more flame resistant and less likely to emit toxic gases, Ms. Anderson

But there are some clouds on the safety horizon. For example, Robertson said that while seats have been made stronger to resist the impact of a crash, the floor beneath them has

"Before the changes the seats were folding over," he said. "But when the seat is stiff it makes it easier to break it off the floor." "So they sometimes do pop off

the floor," he said and added: Maybe this step in the right direction is going to backfire."

Modern technology may also have reduced the protection offered by the "protective co-

coon" or fuselage of a jetliner, Robinson says. Today's planes are made from high-strength aluminum to hold

down weight. But Robertson says the resulting fuselage is brittle. "They shatter, and sharp fragments lie all over the crash site. he says. "Earlier generations of aircraft would crush, buckle and

wrinkle, but the box was still there. They are losing that cocoon protection." Robertson, whose institute has been engaged in the study of air crashes for more than 30 years,

says air disasters can be divided into three categories. These range from the airborne equivalent of fender-benders -

posing small risk to those on board — to deadly accidents in which all or most of the passengers and crew are killed. It is the third category - mid-dle-ground accidents in which

some are killed but many survive which pose an opportunity, the safety experts say. "The aim is to take that middle

ground and expand it," thus reducing the number of totally deadly accidents, Robertson said. "It is in fact being expanded."

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### mann: Actress and activist

By John Parker

HONG KONG - When Norwedefied danger warnings to visit children in Hong Kong's often violent camps for Vietnamese boat people, she had in mind a particular child yet unborn.

Police advised that her safety in some camps could not be guaranteed, but Ullmann, 51, is soon to be grandmother and says that knowledge has honed her keen social conscience.

"Now ... (work with refugees) is even more important," she said in an interview. in an interview.

"What if (my grandchild) turns out to be a very socially conscious person? Then he hears about shocking things that were going on in the world and he says, grandmother what did you do to help?". I'd like to not lose his

At a news conference last week to draw attention to the plight of Vietnamese boat people crammed into Hong Kong's overflow-

minutes lambasting a local journalist for an article she disliked. "That would be just so bizar-

re." she told another reporter questions on a 30-year career that has included such films as The Hour of the Wolf in 1968 and the 1974 Scenes from a Marriage. Ullmann was in Hong Kong as

ioint leader of a delegation from the U.S.-based Women's Com-mission for Refugee Women and Children which spent a week touring the camps and talking to

refugees.
"She was really marvelous in the camps," said one of her codelegates, describing how Ullmann spent hours talking to

boat people: Since December, when Hong Kong for the first time forcibly repatriated a group of 51 boat people from among the 56,000 in the British colony, aid workers and police say the atmosphere in the Jam-packed camps has grown for worse.

After surviving perilous voyages in small boats across the

ing camps, Ulimann spent 10 South China Sea, and languishing - often for years - in Hong Kong camps, most of the boat people now face the prospect of being sent back to their commun-

> Some are desperate enough to feel they have nothing to lose by violent protest against repatria-

Vicious fights between rival gangs are commonplace. Women and girls complain of rape and sexual harassment. Children grow up seeing the world through barbed wire.

Ulmann described the conditions in the camps as a disgrace. Her delegation said in a statement: "No justifiable excuse exists for imprisoning infants, keep-ing them behind barbed wire, packed like sardines in concentra-

tion camp-like conditions." The actress has little time for the politics of the problem - she sees suffering and wants it stop-ped — and the brushes aside the concerns of those Hong Kong residents who resent the imposition of so many Victnamese on the already crowded British

"What I am sure of is that if Hong Kong people could visit the camps and speak woman-to-woman, or child-to-child, or manto-man, they would re-evaluate thoughts they might have had."

Although in the past 10 or 15 years Ullmann has spent little time in her native Norway, it is her strong attachment to her homeland that helps explain why she has focused her energies on the plight of refugees.

"I am very happy for many reasons to be Norwegian ... I know how important it is to belong somewhere, to have roots somewhere — that's why it is so casy for me to identify with people who have become uprooted."

She still has a home in Norway and carries a Norwegian passport. Her only child — 23-year-old Linn — is expecting her grandchild there, but these days Ullmann herself lives in Boston with her husband of five years, businessman Donald Saunders. She leads a quiet life and shuns the glitz of the movie world.



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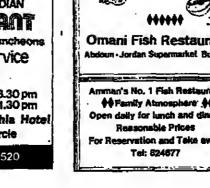
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# Europe attracts Japanese funds U.S. foreign aid becomes hot topic

from Japan, the largest single source of foreign capital to the United States, are shifting their sights to attractive European markets, mainly booming West Germany, which is emerging as the most powerful economic force reshaping Eastern Europe.

The thought that the enormously wealthy Japanese may be hanging back from U.S. investments dampened the stock market's mood this past week and injected new anxiety into the market for U.S. Treasury secur-

impending \$30 billion Treasury auction this week could provide a better clue about the extent to which Japanese investors are willing to keep financing America's federal deficit, economists say.

Poor participation would suggest that interest rates must rise to attract buyers. This would make bonds more competitive with stocks and would raise borrowing costs of American corporations, lowering their profits. For weeks Japanese investors have been lightening up on say, partly to raise cash for margin calls on their own heavily leveraged stocks at home. Japanese stocks have been falling mainly in response to rising interest rates and inflation press-

More significantly, Japanese investors have discovered potentially more lucrative markets in West Germany sine, the Berlin wall came tumbling down.

"The Japanese have taken money otherwise going to buy U.S. stocks and bonds and are investing in West Germany," said economist Mark Killion with DRI-McGraw-Hill Inc. in Lexington, Massachusetts.

West Germany is particularly attractive to Japanese investors for two reasons: Exchange rates — the mark is stronger against both the dollar and the yen and political changes in Eastern Europe, which are expected to enormously benefit the West German economy. Both are pushing up West German interest

"The highest rates of return available today are in Germany," said Marc Goloven, an international economist with Manufacturers Hanover Trust Co.

longer open," he said. Van Wijnbergen said it was not clear whether Turkey would be

able to borrow on world markets

to finance badly-needed invest-

ment. This could lead to higher

interest rates for debt issued on

Remittances from Turkish

workers abroad could also fall

because of concern over econo-

mic instability in the country.

Harvard University economist

Dani Rodrik said he shared Van

Wijnbergen's pessimism about

Turkey's future, noting that the

introduction of foreign currency

deposits for Turkish citizens,

along with the fiscal deficit, had

raised the inflation rate to around

He said he doubted if the gov-

ernment would act to cut its

deficit soon because of pressure

from interest groups demanding

He also said he doubted

whether Turkey could maintain

the growth of exports achieved

during the 1980s because it had

Angola, Botswana, Lesotho.

Malawi, Mozambique, Swazi-land, Tanzania, Zambia and Zim-

But this could be achieved only

if aid increased four per cent

ern creditors offered concessions

to maintain the region's debt ser-

vice payments at current levels of

Jaycox said policy reforms and

There would be stiff competi-

tion in the 1990s for Africa's

traditional markets, and the integration of European Community economies in 1992 was a major

"Africa is going to hve to ad-

just to these and other develop-

ment in order to hold its own," he

told the annual meeting of donors.

structural adjustment program-mes were needed to attract aid

around \$9 billion a year.

and reach growth targets.

annually in real terms and West-

70 per cent a year.

income redistribution.

**World Bank to lend** 

**African states \$4b** 

the domestic market, he said.

ment bond yielded 7.56 per cent, Goloven said. The comparable Japanese yield was 6:19 per cent. Although the U.S. Treasury's long-term bond was yielding 8.48 per cent, the rising value of the mark still made the West German bonds worth more.

Higher West German rates stem partly from the influx of people into West Germany from throughout Eastern Europe, which is putting pressure on prices, particularly housing, and raising the inflation rate. The West German central bank's answer to rising inflation is to raise interest rates.

In addition, unification of Western Europe under the European Community in 1992 has incited a rush of investments by the Japanese, who fear that heightened trade restrictions could keep them out of those

"There's a lot of incentive for Japanese investors to get into Europe now before the barriers come crashing down," Killion said. "The feeling in Japan is that investors will have a much better prospect for working successfully

there before 1992 occurs."

Nonetheless, economists emphasise that Japanese investors, while investing in Europe, are not abandoning U.S. mar-

"The question is not whether Japanese investors are going to ome to the United States, but at what price," said Lawrence Veit. international economist with Brown Brothers Harriman and Co. financial firm.

Veit says European markets

are not large enough to absorb huge amounts of Japanese funds. So whereas the Japanese can send a lot of money in a short time to Europe, it is not feasible to think that they will send a lot of money over a long period of

time," Veit said. Economists say there are still many reasons the Japanese will come to U.S. markets, including political stability.

We still attract significant

and the Soviet Union. amounts of Japanese investment Many lawmakers, including capital and will continue to do so whether in the form of direct Senator Bob Kasten, a member investment in such things as autoof the Senate Committee that mobile assembly plants or portdivides up foreign aid, and congressman David Obey, chairman folio investments in stocks and bonds," Goloven said. of the House Foreign Operations

Appropriations Subcommittee. view cuts in defence — the so-called "peace dividend" — as the future cash cow for foreign aid.

"We can easily cut another \$10 billion to \$18 billion without jeopardising security," said Senator Joseph Biden, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. "There's a lot more to be done within the Defence Department."

Biden is one of a handful of Democratic senators who introduced a bill last week to channel \$500 billion to Eastern Europe over five years.

Congressman Sam Gejdenson said the defence budget should be cut in favour of foreign aid. There are times to buy bullets and times for other things," he

While the Bush administration last week proposed a \$14.8 billion foreign aid request for fiscal year 1991, about \$1 billion over the previous year, lawmakers still have unfinished business for fiscal year 1990

Secretary of State James Baker has informed lawmakers the administration is planning to ask Congress for two supplemental aid packages for 1990, but he to cut money so the budget will-

The packages are \$500 million for Panama to help the country the United States invaded on Dec. 20, and \$70 million for

The State Department's refugee budget has been strained by the Soviet Union's liberalised emigration policies that have allowed more people, particularly Jews, to leave. The administration wants to admit 27,000 more

refugees this year. Senator Patrick Leahy, chairman of the Senate Subcommittee that handles foreign aid, says he wants to know where the money's coming from.

"I told one administration official, 'don't travel around the world saying, the check's in the mail,' when I have the checkbook in my pocket. I'm not going to move a bill that makes great promises without the money," he

Lawmakers said they've been told money will come from defence programmes and from other accounts. Senator Paul Simon said the \$30 million is supposed to be siphoned off from

hasn't told them where he wants Sudan and Somalia, countries that had not met their U.S. requirements for continued receipt

But Simon, chairman of a Senate Africa Subcommittee, said

he'll oppose that move. In fact, Leonard Robinson Jr., chairman of the African Development Bank, complained in an editorial in the Washington Post newspaper that Africa, the world's poorest continent, has

been given short-shrift.
"Where did the \$900 million come from," he asked about the money Congress provided for Poland and Hungary late last year.
"Why did it take only days to secure? as an Africanist, I want to know — so do the people of Africa."

Others are sure to come forward with complaints about Congress' habit of "earmarking" setting aside - money for specific countries. The administration opposes such earmarks.

Five countries - Israel, Egypt. Turkey, the Philippines and Pakistan — receive more than two-thirds of the total aid. Israel and Egypt get the lion's share, with Israel leading at about \$3

## **Turkish inflation** declines to 60%

ANKARA (R) - Turkish consumer prices rose 3.8 per cent in January while 12-month inflation to end-January fell to 60.0 per cent from December's 68.8 per cent, the state Institute of Statistics said. The annual rise in consumer prices was led by foodstuffs with prices rising by 69.4 per cent, followed by health services with a 68.6 per cent in-

Meanwhile, a World Bank economist said that Turkey faced economic instability similar to Latin American states unless it tackled big public sector deficits.

"If no fiscal measures are taken now, the Turkish miracle could really be over and Turkey could look more like a Latin American country that it has in the past, said Sweder Van Wijnbergen.

He told an international conference on economic stabilisation programmes that Turkey had failed to control public spending, including a substantial deficit of the central bank due to subsidised

The easy road to high growth reached the limits of production and high export growth is no capacity.

LUSAKA (R) — The World Bank has said it would lend black

southern African states \$4 billion

thuring the next five years to boost

economic growth but warned that a total of \$22 billion was needed

The forecast was made by Ed-

ward Jaycox, the bank's vice-

president for Africa, to a confer-

ence of the nine-nation Southern

'African Development Coordina-

tion Conference (SADCC) trade

and development bloc in Lusaka.

be provided, and used effectively,

the World Bank believes that

Africa's economic decline can

gradually be reversed," he said.

Bank estimates showed African economies could grow in real

terms by between four to five per

cent a year, Jaycox told the meet-

ing of donors and ministers of

SADCC states. Members are

"If this level of assistance can

by the year 2000.

### **ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS**

#### Oman reports hefty GNP rise

NICOSIA (R) - Oman has reported an eight per cent rise in its gross national product (GNP) during the first nine months of 1989. The Omani News Agency quoted official figures as saying the GNP rose to 2.46 billion Omani riyals (\$6.38 billion) compared with 2.28 billion riyals (\$5.92 billion) in the corresponding January-September period of 1988. "The (overall) increase is expected to be 12 per cent by the end of last year," the agency received in Nicosia, said. The figures put oil revenues at nearly 1.1 billion riyals (\$2.85 billion), accounting for about 44 per cent

### Egypt, Albania sign trade agreement

VIENNA (R) — An Egyptian delegation has signed a trade agreement with Albanian officials in the capital, Tirana, the official news agency ATA said Sunday. Under the agreement Albania will export tobacco, chrome, pig iron, copper and tomato paste to Egypt, while Egypt will export phosphate, steel tubes, rubber textiles and aluminium products to Albania. Orthodox communist Albania has stood firm against the changes sweeping the rest of the East Bloc, though leader Ramiz Alia last month promised some limited reforms, including reducing the power of the economic central planning authorities and increasing supplies of some consumer goods.

#### Greek dockworkers renew strike

ATHENS (AP) — Greece's 2,800 dockworkers went on strike Saturday for better benefits and pay, paralysing ports. The Union of Port Employees of Greece says it expects the strike to last at least a week. The dockworkers are demanding an extra \$50 a day for handling hazardons loads, as well as improved pension and health insurance plans. They have conducted repeated strikes and slowdowns in recent weeks, with the result that some freighters have been redirected to other European ports while others languish at Greek docks. In an interview with the Greek daily newspaper Ethnos, Spiros Marinakis, president of the International Shipping Union, a group representing firms in Athens warned that the strikes are causing serious long-term damage to

### USSR may join FAO this year

ROME (R) - The Soviet Union could join the United Nation's Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) by the end of this year, a Soviet envoy has said. "If our findings are positive, I don't see why we shouldn't exercise our right (to join FAO) by the end of the year," said Konstantin Oveninnikov, vice-director of the Soviet foreign ministry's department of international economic

# THE BETTER HALF. By Harris HARRIS 1-8

#### "is that your cheap cologne, or did you go to the dump this morning?"

## Iran Air plans expansion

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iran Air, Iran's national carrier, plans to expand to carry eight million passengers annually within five years, director-general Hasan Shafti has said.

To achieve this target the air-line will buy new aircraft and expand manpower and airport facilities throughout Iran, he was quoted as saying by Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), monitored in Nicosia.

One of the first steps will be to expand the airline's overseas net-work with direct flights to Kuala Lumpur, capital of Malaysia, by March 20, Shafti said.

IRNA gave no other details of

Shafti's remarks, made in Tabriz in northwestern Iran. But Iran's transport minister, Mohammad Saedl-Kya, announced two months ago that Iran Air plans to buy "five or six Airbus-type airliners in the next

The Airbus family of jetliners is produced by a Western European consortium based in France. Iran Air flies a number of aging Boeing 707s as well as some newer Airbus A-300 jets.

Saedi-Kya also announced that following the August 1988 ceasefire in the eight-year war with Iraq, Iran plans to renovate more than 30 airports around the

The airline's expansion and improvement is part of Iran's plans to revive its tourist industry, which flourished before the 1979 Islamic revolution overthrew the

pro-Western Shah. But since the 1988 ceasefire. the Iranians have been seeking to redevelop tourism as a foreign currency earner.

### **AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES**

Sunday, February 4, 1990 Central Bank official rates 115.3 116.5 4\$2.4 456.9 347.3 350.8 107.8 108.9 \$2.7 53.2 Japanese yen (for 100) Dutch guilder 665.0 Swedish crown Italian live (for 100) 1109.6 1120.7 391.5 395.4 395.4 446.1

### JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee NOTIX POAKK **GATHUC** SOMETIMES WHEN THE RUNNING, THE FANS DO THIS. **RYMILG** Print enswer here: THE (Answers tomorrow Jumbles: IMBUE FLORA WEASEL DOUBLY

What those newly hatched termites were BABES IN THE WOOD

### E. Germany plans free prices, convertible currency by 1993 German mark convertible by

EAST BERLIN (R) - East Ger- kets had suggested. many plans to make its currency convertible and scrap price controls within three years, dismanthing its centrally planned system and replacing it with a market economy, a report has said.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fore-ign aid has become a hot topic on Capitol Hill. Congressmen are

asking President George Bush's

administration: Where's the

Pressing domestic needs.

changes in Eastern Europe, last

year's invasion of Panama and a

controversial proposal by Senator

Robert Dole to slash money from

Israel and Egypt have spotlighted

"There's going to be some rough sledding," said Senator

Jim Sasser, chairman of the Sen-

ate Budget Committee, noting

the general unpopularity of fore-

A recent poll by the Wall

Street Journal newspaper and the

U.S. television network NBC

showed 71 per cent of Americans

believe the United States spends

too much on foreign aid. They

supported aid, but were virtually

split on helping Poland and opposed aid to East Germany

foreign aid in 1990.

money?

ign aid.

The document, prepared by a government commission and published in the first edition of a relaunched business monthly, also proposed an independent banking system, self-running industrial enterprises and strict control of the money supply.

"We must work towards the convertibility of the mark quicker than we at first thought," Economics Minister Christa Luft said in an interview with the paper Die Wirtschaft, which had been banned by the then hardline government six years ago and which aims now to go weekly after its April edition.

But deputy state bank chief Hans Taut said this did not mean currency reform was imminent. as remours in some financial mar-

East Germany's currency is virtually useless outside the country

and price subsidies eat up onefifth of the annual budget. Western analysts say these conditions must change if East Germany is to attract vital foreign capital and The report, much of which had

been leaked ahead of this week's publication in the Die Wirtschaft, gave further details of East German plans to rescue its tottering economy.

Coinciding with Prime Minister Hans Modrow's proposals for German reunification, it also indicated greater cooperation with Bonn, especially over the cur-"Currency union with West

Germany involving a relatively stable exchange rate could ensure the continuation of two currencies and allow either partial or

full convertibility," Luft said.

The report said the government hoped to make the East

1992 or 1993, possibly pegging it just to the powerful West German mark as a first step. The head of the West German

Bundesbank, Karl-Otto Poehl, has supported step-by-step cur-rency reform and last week said he believed East Germany's economy could quickly boom if re-forms proceed favourably. He is due to visit East Berlin Tuesday.

West German Finance Minister Theo Waigel Friday called for faster moves towards German monetary union. "To provide the East German

people with an immediate and convincing hope for the future. the introduction of the (West German) mark as the official currency in East Germany could be necessary," Waigel said in a statement.

The alternative, favoured by the powerful West German central bank and leading economists, was to wait until East German economic productivity had im- autumn.

proved before making the East German mark convertible and then creating monetary union.

"This path is well justified on economic grounds, but it needs time and will require patience on the part of the East German people," Waigel said.

The East German government also wants to abolish price con-trols in stages, starting this year byreplacing subsidies on basic goods with direct social payments to. individuals. :

Industrial, agricultural and commercial prices would be allowed to float from 1991, paving the way for a fully free price system by the time the West European single market is in place at the end of 1992.

Other goals included the introduction of climbing wage scales, and a tax reform removing punishing rates for small private businesses — which were tolerated but not cherished by the Stalinist order that collapsed last

### Japan's trade surplus shrinks dramatically

and a strong dollar helped cut Japan's trade surplus in 1989 to its lowest level in four years, but economists here said the trend was set to reverse in

Japan's carrent account, the broadcast measure of trade in goods and services, narrowed 28.4 per cent to \$56.98 billion in 1989 from \$79.63 billion in 1988.

Japan is confident of achieving its targets for reduced external imbalances in its accounts in the fiscal year ending March 31, 1990, Vice Finance Minister

Sadaaki Hirasawa also said. The government aims to reduce the current-account surplus to \$61 billion in fiscal 1989 from \$77.3 billion in 1988-89.

It has set a trade surplus objec-

by Japanese abroad, higher oil year against \$95.3 billion in basis, the trade surplus narrowed mand, also curtailed exports. TAGG-9A.

Japan's invisibles trade deficit, which includes the money Japanese spend as tourists overseas, ballooned to \$15.93 billion in 1989 from \$11.26 billion in

With 9.6 million Japanese travelling abroad last year, Japan's travel deficit amounted to a record \$19.33 billion in 1989 and accounted for a large part of the reduction in the currentaccount surplus, analysts said.

"Tourism was very, very important. Travel abroad has increased by 20 per cent in each of the last three years," said Matthew Berlow, an economist at Credit Lyonnais Alexanders Laing and Cruickshank Securities.

\$95.01 billion in 1988, the finance ministry reported.

A stronger dollar in 1989 was a major cause of the sharp decline in the trade surplus, said Hidehiro Iwaki, an economist at the Nomura Research Institute.

A high U.S. currency depresses the value of Japanese exports denominated in dollars and accounted for roughly 30 per cent of the \$18 billion reduction in the

1989 trade surplus. Exports totalled \$269.63 billion in 1989 against \$259.77 billion the

Slower U.S. economic growth and capacity limitations among some Japanese manufacturers.

mainly automakers, triggered by

TOKYO (R) — Record spending tive of \$81 billion for this fiscal On a balance-of-payment robust Japanese domestic de-

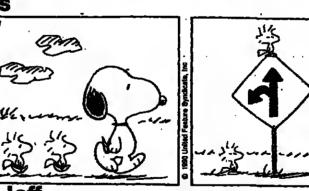
Some goods for export m have been shifted to the domestic market," said Chiharu Sumita, an economist at UBS Phillips and Drew International.

"Capacity constraints put a drag on Japanese exports. although they've started to ex-pand production capacity lately," said Iwaki.

Japan imported more oil at higher prices in 1989, and that gave imports a boost, economists added. Imports last year totalled \$192.50 billion against \$164.75

billion in 1988. Imports were also bolstered by the fact that some Japanese com-panies were unable to meet domestic demand because of: capacity limitations, said Berlow.

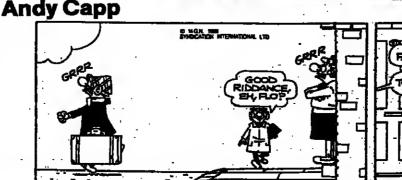
### **Peanuts**







Mutt'n' Jeff SPRING IS BUSTIN BUSINESS IS I GOT IT! BAD! WE ONLY HAVE ABOUT SINGING WAITERS OUT ALL OVER







·--

eluded him.

final day.

and went into retirement without

a Commonwealth Games medal

— the one major honour that had

Walker's clash with Scammell

was not the only black spot of the

One of the stars of the games, 100-metre Olympic champion Linford Christie, boycotted part

of the closing ceremony in protest

over an appeal by three of 1,600-

metre teams being turned down

by the games' appeal jury.
The teams of England, Austra-

lia and Trinidad and Tobago were

disqualified from Friday's heats

because their baton changes had

been outside the allowed area.

glish gold medalists selected to

take part in the closing ceremony

But a press statement from the

English team said the sprinter had declined to participate

"although he recognises the hon-

our which has been bestowed on

Team manager John Jeffery said it was Christie's decision not

"This is a decision for Linford

to make as an individual. It is not

a team decision," Jeffery said. "I will not force him to take part."

strongest teams, Kenya won the

had anchored the England team

to victory in the 400-metre relay.

medals, 52 of which were gold; England had 129 and 47 golds, Canada 113 with 35 golds. Of the

57 competing nations, 29 went home with at least one medal.

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In the absence of three of the

Christie's stand came after he

Overall, Australia won 162

to take part.

Christie was one of three En-

### Graf wins Pan-Pacific Open

**GOREN BRIDGE** 

WHO NEEDS KINGST

TOKYO (AP) - Stoff Graf Sun- unleashed two aces in a row at the day avenged her defeat at last year's French Open by overwhelming Arantes Sanchez to win the Toray Pan-Pacific Open tennis tournament and her 52nd-

straight victory.

Graf fired nine aces on route to beating the Spanish teenager 6-1. 6-2 on an artificial court at the number two Yoyogi National

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said.

Graf, the world's top-ranked player, took home \$70,000 and Sanchez, ranked fifth in the world, carned \$31,500.

"I think this surface maybe isn't her favourite, since she is a clay court player," Graf said after the match before 3,000 people. "This surface fits me," she said.

Graf, who came to Tokyo after winning the Australian Open for the third-consecutive year, said:
"I played all the tournament very well and had a good feeling and lots of confidence The 20-year-old West German

with omar sharif a tannah hirsch

E 1900 Trauma Media Services, Inc.

North-South vulnerable. North

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South West

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THE Daily Crossword by Motor Jambor; Jr.

Opening lead: Five of O Here's another line defensive

hand from the recent European

Championships in Turku, Finland, It arose in the Italy-Denmark match. The Danes, among the pre-

tournament favorites, were chal-lenging strongly for the title. To all

intents and purposes, Italy was out

of the running.
The bidding was short and sweet.

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start of the first set, and went on to lose only one point in the first Graf broke the second game,

third, which she won without loging a point. In the second set, Graf deftly used passing shots to break San-chez' serve in the first game after

and fired two more ages in the

four dences. Sanchez led 40-15 in the second game, but her break point slipped away when Graf attacked with a

The 18-year-old Sanchez said she did not expect the match, played on a fast surface, to go like the French Open final, when she defeated Graf 7-6 (8-6), 3-6, 7-5.

"(Graf) had very good first serves and forehands. She made less mistakes," Sanchez said after the match, adding that she had skipped the Australian Open and trained hard for this tournament.

East's jump to two diamonds was

of course, procuptive. East covered dummy's six of dis-

monds with the seven and declarer's

nine won. Looking at all the cards,

it's easy to see that declarer can

make his contract by dropping the

queen of bearts, but that's not a

very high-percentage play. Instead, South tried to set up a second spade

trick, so at trick two a low spade was

chacked to West's queen. The de-fenders took the ace and king of

diamonds, followed by a third dis-

mond. Hearts were sinfled from dummy, and West parted with a heart and then the king of spades!

With clubs breaking 4-2, declarer had only eight tricks. His ninth would have to come from spades, but as a result of West's discard

there was no way to set up a long

spede without letting East gain the

lead. And that worthy had more

than enough diamonds to sink the

and they piled on the pressure to annihilate Denmark by a score of

25-3. The Danes never recovered

from this setback, and were out of

Yesterday's Pezzie Selvad

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contention at the finish.

That got Italy off to a good start



Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday watches the final matches between Jordan and Maleysia in a Davia Cup zonal qualifying round (Petra photo)

DAVIS CUP TENNIS TOURNAMENT:

### Jordan loses again but Queen lauds team's courage

By Serene Halasa Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - In the final round of the Davis Cup tennis tournament, Malavsia beat Jordan 5-0 in their Asia/Oceania zone, group two. Next, Malaysia will play Hong Kong in the quarterfinals

scheduled to begin on March 30. Kam Ka Vhei of Malaysia played Fourat Hummadi, in the first singles match held on Sunday and won 6-1, 6-2, 6-I. In the second match U. Murali Dharan of Malaysia led his team in another victory over Ayman Abu Jaber, ending the game with 6-4, 6-1. Both games reflected the Jordanian team's unrelentless efforts to play a good game till the end. In the opening matches of the tournament, which was spon-

tipental, the Malaysians took the lead by defeating Jordan in the two singles held Friday, and the doubles held on Saturday, thus advancing 3-0.

Her Majesty Queen Noor, who attended the three-day tournament, was not discouraged by Jordan's defeat. "The players that have played in this match have all played with great deal of commitment, heart and courage," the Oncen told the Jordan Times after the match. "They've really played very well, and I'm really proud of them."

Her Majesty Queen said that we knew that our team was facing a very touch competition, and a much more professional

The Queen reflected on a be-

sored by Hotel Jordan Inter.Conlief held by some that perhaps international tournaments such as the Davis Cap tennis tournsment, because of the Jordanian team's consecutive defeats, and said that she disagreed. "I think it's very important that we realise it takes time and hard work, and it's only through this process could we have competitive tennis

> Her Majesty sounded very optimistic when she spoke about the younger generation of tennis players. "I am very excited about the young people who play tennis, and I can see in many of them great potential," the Queen said. 'If we can offer them the opporfunities to play as much as possible in Jordan, then they will have more of an opportunity,"

### President's political moves raise hopes for end of boycott

ca (AP) — The bold political concessions announced by President F.W. de Klerk will provide a major boost for efforts to end the sports boycott of South Africa, prominent sports administrators

aid Saturday. "New doors will open for us,"

**Becker** 

under fire

pion Boris Becker, increasingly disenchanted with life in top ten-

nis, has hit out at his native West

Germany for putting too much pressure on him on and off the

Answering recent criticism over his withdrawal from this

year's Davis Cap, the world number two said the West Germans,

who experienced a major termis

boom in the late 1980s when they

twice won the Davis Cup, be-

lieved they owned him.
"For the last five years a whole

sport and entertainment industry

has been built on my shoulders

that is weighing me down more and more," the West German magazine Der Spiegel quoted him as saying in an interview to be published Monday.

Fans watching West Germany's Davis Cup win over the Dutch

Davis Cup win over the Dutch

this weekend held banners complaining Becker was not playing. Some supporters asked for their

tickets back before the match.

fire from businessmen who said

his withdrawal last week was an insult to the sport's sponsors. "Is Germany really just Becker? What other conclusion are

you supposed to come to? What do they want from me?" he said. "What's going on is they are systematically putting a person in their pockets. And I'm going to

defend myself against that ... I

belong to no-one."

Becker's remarks are further

evidence of his dissatisfaction

with the burdens of commercial

and public life surrounding tennis

which he says are likely to drive

him out of the game by the time

The number of West Germans

taking up the game leapt by some 20 per cent in the four years

following Becker's first Wimbledon triumph as a teenager in 1985.

he is 25.

The 22-year-old came under

JOHANNESBURG, South Afri- of the South African National Olympie Committee. "A lot more people will listen to what

we have to say now." Most of South Africa's major sports have been partially or completely cut off from international competition for 10 or more years in protest against the country's said Johan du Plessis, chairman racial segregation policies.

Initially, the boycotts were imposed because of segregation on the playing field in South Africa, but the bans continued even after most major sports took steps to promote integration. Proponents of the boycotts said full sporting contacts should resume only when apartheid was dismantled at

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### Queen Elizabeth closes games

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP) - Queen Elizabeth II brought the curtain down on the 14th Commonwealth Games Saturday after a final day that maintained the event's penchant

for drama and controversy. The queen ignored about 30 Maori protesters as she arrived to watch the start of the track action at a sun-drenched Mt. Smart Stadium, then returned for the customary glittering pageant and firework display that ended the 11-day, 57-nation sports festival

"In the name of the Commonwealth Games Federation, I proclaim the 14th Commonwealth Games, Auckland, 1990, closed," the queen said. "In accordance with tradition. I call upon sportsmen and sportswomen of the Commonwealth to assemble in four years' time in (Victoria) Canada to celebrate the 15th Commonwealth Games."

The monarch's remarks and an appearance immediately afterwards by world-famous opera singer Dame Kiri Te Kanawa brought a resounding cheer from the 35,000 spectators, who played their part in an event that lived up to its billing as the friendly games only in terms of local hospitality. As she departed from the stadium. Queen Elizabeth left behind memories of boycott threats, a major drug scandal and several personal vendettas between

The mood was maintained right up until the final afternoon, when one of the world's bestknown runners, John Walker, made a sad and angry exit in front of his home public.

Walker, making his last appearance in a New Zealand vest at age 38, tangled with Pat Scammell in the 1,500 metres, finished last and launched a scathing attack on the Australian.

"He just stopped running and I hit the back of his heel," said Walker, the 1976 Olympic cham-pion and former mile world record holder. "This is nothing new for Scammell. He decks everyone in Europe as well. I thought I'd run a great race... It's so damn

big dining rooms.

disappointing."
Walker said the race was the biggest disappointment of his

Carcer. "I was hoping to be up here as a medal winner not as a non-

finisher," Walker said. Scammell threw his bag to the ground when told Walker and

blamed him. "I got tripped from behind. I may have been the cause of the

fall in the sense I went down but I wasn't to blame," Scammell said. The race was won by England's Peter Elliott, who stepped out of the shadow of former rivals Steve Cram and Sebastian Coe to win

his first major title.

Elliott, the Olympic silver medalist, hit the front with 400 metres to go and outpaced Wil-fred Kirochi of Kenya to win in 3:33.39. New Zealand's Peter O'Donaghue took the bronze. "I'm just happy that I'm going

away from here as Commonwealth champion," said Elliott, who also won the 800-metre silver medal at the 1987 World Cham-'I've had two silver from major

championships but the gold has always cluded me," the 27-year-old Englishman said, "I was always frightened I would retire from athletics never being a champion."

After his victory, Elliott went straight over to Walker and asked the New Zealander to share the lap of honour. Walker shook his head but Elliott insisted.

"I knew something had gone wrong," Elliott said. "I'm just pleased he could join me because the majority of people here today had come to see John Walker. I really admire him as a competitor.

Elliott's performance was so impressive that Coe, who withdrew from the event because of illness, might have struggled to keep up with the pace.
On Friday, Coe was forced to

withdraw from the heats of what would have been the last race of his 14-year career.

The previous day, the 33-yearold Englishman managed only sixth place in the 800-metre final

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### Thousands join rally ahead of key Moscow Communist meeting

MOSCOW (R) — Thousands of people demanding radical reform marched towards the centre of Moscow Sunday as reformist groups from across the country turned up the pressure on the Kremlin to overhaul the Communist Party.

The march, sponsored by a broad range of progressive and national movements, comes on the eve of a crucial plenum of the party's policy-making Central Committee.

Proposals before the party's plenum include surrendering its constitutional strangleboid on power and expanding accountability to the people.

The government daily Izvetsia warned that the Communist Party was facing its darkest days ever. "The party is going through its most difficult time, perhaps the most difficult in its entire his-

More than 10,000 people, many waving flags of the powerful Baltic popular fronts and carrying signs demanding more openness in the party, crossed the Kremlin bridge on a march to a public square, about two kilometres from the Kremlin.

Security forces stood by quietly as the crowd set off but most of the streets heading into the centre

were blocked with lorries and traffic police announced they planned to close much of the surrounding area.

"Down with article six," read one banner, a call for the an end to the party's monoploy on pow-er. "No to fascism in the USSR," "freedom to the Baltic republics," read others.
"I am afraid that tomorrow

everything will remain the same,' said marcher Faina Gordina. "The only thing I want is to

support those people who are trying to make our lives better. Democracy is the only way."

The once-banned national flags

of the popular front mass movements of the Baltic republics mixed with the banners of other regional groups.

The Kremlin is facing a country

increasingly in disarray, battered by the bloody clashes between rival Armenians and Azeris in the Soviet south, surging separatism in three Baltic republics and a crumbling economy.

More ominous for the Com-

munist establishment is a growing tide of discontent in the giant Russian federation that has brought down a series of party leaders, a sign the republic's political apathy is coming to an end.
Party officials in the castern

city of Vladivostok, the Siberian centre of Tynmen and the southern city of Volgograd have heen removed in recent weeks amid popular anger over corruption and the slow pace of reform. The party newspaper Pravda Sunday suggested that disgraced Communist officials should face a

strict accounting for their mis-deeds, rather than simply be allowed to retire on fat pensions. Those singled out included former ideology chief Mikhail Sus-lov, former Leningrad Party chief Grigory Romanov and one-time Moscow party boss Viktor Grishin. All were members of the

ruling politburo. In a bid to counter the crisis, the party has paved the way for major reform with a public relations campaign in the Soviet

Sunday newspapers devoted many columns to discussion of body would replace the polit-reform measures, including an buro.

tions of the delegates to the party congress in October.

The head of the Moscow higher party school was quoted as saying the next congress could be the party's last if greater democracy was not introduced.

A report by Radio Moscow's Interfax publication said the plenum Monday would debate a new platform of "humane democratic

"The draft platform calls for a

radical perestroika of the party, which will fight for its leading role, but assume no state or government power, nor lay any claim to having its role set down in the constituion," Interfax said. Interfax also said the plan contained radical changes in the par-ty structure, including the election of a chairman and two de-

streamlined 200-member Central Committee. A new political executive committee would be created, with representatives from each of the

puties and the creation of a

15 republics — an idea borrowed from Lithuanian party chief Algirdas Brazauskas. It was not clear, however, whether this

### Scowcroft sees more global role for U.S. armed forces

MUNICH, West Germany (AP) - U.S. National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft said Saturday that U.S. forces in the future wil be smaller but "more global" in their orientation.

Scowcroft also said U.S. policy for Europe is one of "continuity and change" to adapt to the massive transformations sweeping Eastern Europe.

But he added that the United

States will remain a military power on the continent. The national security adviser spoke at the annual Wehrkunde conference in Munich, which brings together security experts,

lawmakers and government offi-cials from NATO countries and Japan.

"America will remain engaged as a global power," Scowcroft said. "part of the adjustment in our defence posture will be to-

sustainability appropriate to the demands of likely contingencies." U.S. President George Bush

has already proposed reducing superpower forces in Central Europe to 195,000 troops for each side.

That would mean a reduction of about 60,000 U.S. servicemen, most of them from West Germany, and cutting Soviet troops from their current level of

Scowcroft did not spell out how U.S. forces would be poised to be "more global" in orientation.

The conference was held against the backdrop of vastly improved East-West relations and European integration that many predict will lead to German unification.

Scowcroft repeated U.S. support for German unity and said "Germany's growing strength may ward active forces that are smalbe a most prominent feature of ler, more global in orientation." this new European balance." He said such forces will have a

"degree of agility, readiness and "A stronger Europe could assume increased respon for its own defence - and here, European defence cooperation could become more important within the alliance (NATO) framework," Scowcroft said. "It's time for a European pillar to be built in the security field, now

more so than ever." There have been increasing questions about the U.S. role in a

rapidly changing Europe.
Scowcroft addressed that point, saying: "It is the intention of the United States to remain engaged in Europe with a substantial military and political pre-

He continued: "We feel we are a European power with an abiding and permanent interest in

Sence."

Europe security."

The Wehrkunde conference, despite its size and the attention it attracts, is designed as a forum for the participants to discuss defence issues candidly

## Roh agrees on reforms

SEOUL (AP) - President Roh Tae-Woo pledged with former opposition leaders Saturday to accelerate democratic reforms and release imprisoned dissidents, the presidential office announced.

The announcement said Roh agreed on democratic reforms, including an amnesty for those jailed for political protests, proposed by two former opposition leaders Kim Young-Sam and Kim Jong-Pil in talks at Roh's office.

Roh and the two Kims also agreed to seek "steady democratic reforms" after forming a broad-based new conservative party by early April, it said. In a move unprecedented in

South Korea's constitutional history, Roh announced last week that his governing party will merge with the nation's second and third opposition groups Rob's Democratic Justice Party

was dissolved Thursday, and Kim Young-Sam's Rennification Democratic Party announced its dissolution Monday. The presidential announce-

ment did not say how many prisoners will he freed, but said the government would consider releasing "as many as possible."

No government figures were available, but dissidents claim there are about 1,000 dissidents, students, workers and others im-prisoned for political activity.

Kennedy's desegregation drive in the southern United States. "And

so Mr. De Klerk must be encour-

aged to move. ... Most people in

the world are pulling for him to

go farther and don't stop now."

not be deterred by any

low opinion polls. It molds opin-

ion," he told reporters. "Mr. De

threatened backlash.

Jackson said De Klerk must

"Great leadership does not foi-

have vowed to launch a civil drive against the three-party merger, lling it a scheme by a military dictatorship to prolong its

Dissidents and radical students

The merger will change South Korea's faction-ridden, four party political structure by widening the base of the governing group and dwarfing the largest opposi-tion party led by Kim Dae-Jung.

No agreement has been reached on how to compose the new party's leadership and hierarchy. Party officials said talks were under way on changing the nation's current presidential government system into a parliamentary structure.

"Sanctions is not the central

issue," he said, noting that De

Klerk had not made their remov-

al a condition for reform, and

that U.S. President George Bush

had said it was premature to talk

the negotiating process therefore, not a precondition," Jackson said. "And to put the focus on

sanctions rather than apartheid is

"Sanctions should be part of

#### Human chain formed across Czech borders ter, the former dissident Jiri gue leadership has said it will

PRAGUE (AP) — Thousands of Czechoslovak and West German citizens joined hands across the border Saturday in a gesture of freedom and rejection of the "iron curtain" that divided East

In a separate protest, tens of thousands of people from Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Austria formed a human chain across the Danube River and across territory in all three countries to protest a hydro-electric power plant project oo the Danube, the Czechoslovak News Agency (CTK) reported.

According to CTK, thousands of people from West Germany and Czechoslovakia helped form a human chain across their joint border. Among them was Czechoslovakia's foreign minis-

MOSCOW (R) — A ceasefire

and agreement for the exchange

of hostages between warring

Azeris and Armenians in the

Soviet south has apparently col-

lapsed after fresh disputes in

A spokesman for the Arme-

nian National Movement in the

capital Yerevan said Armenians

in several Azerbaijani villages

had been forced to leave their

homes, ostensibly for their own

protection. He said the move was

in violation of the new agreement

make any agreement when the other side violates the accords.

These events are clearly inspired

by the Azerbaijani popular

There was no immediate com-

ment from the rival Azeri mass

PAARL, South Africa (Agen-

cies) — Obstacles still remain in

the way of Nelson Mandela's

release from prison, his wife, Winnie, said Sunday, and she

called for renewed pressure on

the government to win the black

that were in the way, which pre-

vented his release on Friday, still

exist," said a depressed Mrs.

Mandela after a four-hour visit

with her husband at the Victor

when he will be released," she

said-But in answer to questions

about the obstacles, she would

only say that Mandela was still

demanding the complete lifting of

the 43-month-old national

tially lifted the emergency in a speech Friday in which he legal-

ised Mandela's organisation, the

African National Congress

President F.W. de Klerk par-

"It... doesn't depend on him

"Unfortunately, the obstacles

nationalist's freedom.

Verster prison farm.

The Armenian side cannot

to end all hostilities.

front," he said.

Azerbaijan.

Azeri-Armenian accord

reportedly collapses

Dienstbier. With the action, the participants wanted to draw attention to the "absurdity of the 'iron curtain," CTK said.

Dienstbier was quoted as saying that a joint commission would meet next week to discuss the opening of new border cros-

sings between the countries. CTK said up to 100,000 people helped form a human chain along the Danube over a span of about 150 kilometres from the town of Hainburg in Austria, across to Bratislava in Czechoslovakia and to Komarom in Hungary.

Hungary's parliament has already voted to scrap its part of the joint dam project with Czechoslovakia and the new Pra-

Bloody ethnic clashes between

The collapse of the agreement

the two republics has left more

than 320 people dead in the last

tiations in the Latvian can

lar front mass movements.

sides' interests.

**Obstacles said remaining** 

for Mandela release

problem was resolved.

did not consider the agreement in

(ANC), placed a moratorium on

executions and lifted restrictions

De Klerk's actions met many,

but not all, of the conditions the

ANC and Mandela had set for the

start of negotiations to end apar-

theid and give the black majority

De Klerk had said it was the

government's intention to free Mandela as soon as possible. He

mentioned safety and personal

consideration as reasons for what

he said would be a short delay.

"The ones is on Mr. de Klerk," Mrs. Mandela told journalists outside the prison gates. "We are

back to where we have to put pressure on the government." She said Mandela was prepar-

ing a reaction to de Klerk's

speech to parliament, but she

didn't know when it would be

made public because "he remains

a voice in the government.

on 374 individuals and 60 other

effect," the spokesman said.

Baltic republics' powerful popu-

two years.

review the environmental consequences of its part of the power plant at Gabcikovo.

In the Hungarian city of Esztergom, activist Csaba Paska "the Danube links the peoples (of the three countries), and this dam which divides us was the work of politicians."

Among placards and banners carried by protesters was one reading, "build bridges, not reading, dams." Austrian and Hungarian environmentalists had long opposed.

the mammoth project, maintaining it would destroy unique wildlife and have other irreparable consequences for the Danube

Prague and Budapest in the 1970s. Austria had agreed to finance part of the Hungarian project in exchange for electricity. The chain across the West Ger-

man-Czechoslovak border was formed between the Czechoslovak town of Zlezna Ruda and the West German border town of Bayrisch Eisenstein, about 150 kilometres northeast of Munich. Among West German participents was the Bavarian Minister of Environment and Agriculture, Alfred Dick, CTK said.

"Several doors have been opened in the common European home which is being built. Now we will have to open also the windows to let some fresh air come in," Dick was quoted by

### The project was agreed on by CTK as saying. 21 killed as violent

windstorm hits France France, killing at least 21 people, cutting rail service to several areas, disrupting air traffic and

causing heavy damage. comes after several days of nego-Winds as high as 168 kilometres per hour tore across Riga under the mediation of the Brittany Saturday, Normandy and the Paris region, ripping off roofs, blowing trees and electric A joint communique issued lines across railways and roads Saturday said the two sides had and cutting off electric service to agreed to end hostilities along more than two million people.

border and declared any escala Among the buildings damaged tion of the conflict against both was the 12th century cathedral at Chartres, one of the most mag-But the Armenian movement difficent Gothic structures ever said there could be no formal end built. The wind ripped copper to the conflict until the latest plates from the roof making a 50-square-metre hole over the "The moment we learned abnave between the two bell out it we sent a message to our representatives in Riga to say we

The National Civil Defence office said at least 21 people died as a result of the storm, though the circumstances of all the deaths were not immediately

Eleven people died in the Paris region, according to anthorities.
Wind uprooted a tree and blew t onto the roof of a house in Villecresnes. Three people in the house were injured. One of them.

a woman, later died. Fire Department headquarters said a 75-year-old woman died in

from a shutter blew across a room

PARIS (AP) - A violent wind- and hit her in the head. In Alfortstorm buffeted much of northern ville, a young man was killed by a fence post that hit him on the

In Boussy-Saint-Antoine, a man died when a tree fell on his car. A similar accident killed three people in Fontainebleau.

The Paris Fire Department also said the wind caused the glass covering of a swimming pool at Villeneuve-Saint-Georges to ex-plode, injuring about 15 children with flying glass.
At Quimper, in Brittany, a

64-year-old man was blown from his roof as he tried to repair the rain gutter. Another man died in similar fashion at Ergue-Guaberic, also in Brittany, falling from his roof as he was fixing his television antenna.

A motorcyclist was killed in the city of Moulins when he was hit in the head by a flying tree branch, and a truck driver died when a gust turned over his vehicle in the

Ille-et-Vilaine region.
In Paris, the St. Lazare Railroad Station, France's busiest was closed about 2 p.m. and all rail service to Normandy cut off. Officials of the state-run railroad. the Societe Nationale des Chemins de Fer Français, said the shutdown was caused by electric lines that had fallen across the-Rosny-Sous-Bois when a bar tracks in several areas as well as

### Jackson urges S. African leader to learn from Lincoln, Kennedy American slaves, and President

LONDON (AP) - Jesse Jackson appealed Saturday to President F.W. de Klerk to follow the example of Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy and press ahead with his reforms, regardless of any threatened backlash from white conservatives.

The U.S. black civil rights lead-"er expressed "hope and caution" about South Africa as he prepared to revisit it after being refused entry for a decade.

He flies to Zambia Monday, and to South Africa Wednesday. and be said he was hoping to meet De Klerk as well as jailed black leader Nelson Mandela, in or out of prison.

De Klerk has promised Mandela's imminent release, and has legalised the African National Coogress, the main guerrilla group fighting white rule, and lifted restrictions on 60 opposition groups and 374 individuals.

Jackson mentioned President Lincoln's emancipation of the

abolish the remaining pillars of apartheid like the group areas act, which segregates residential rights by race, Jackson said.

ment to do the right thing."

Jackson, hitherto a fervent supporter of economic sauctions against South Africa, was noncommittal about whether the West should continue to apply

Klerk is now in a position to mold to shift the focus away from the oninion and make things happen, need to encourage Mr. De Klerk to continue. And what we heard and should not let this moment pass. ... He must seize this moyesterday was reason for hope He should free Mandela and

of lifting sanctions.

Jackson said he boped that in giving him a visa for the first time since 1979, South Africa was sending "yet another signal of a commitment to openness."
In London, Jackson was visit-

ing black cultural groups Satur-day, and on Monday he meets with Prime Minister Margaret

#### 'misses' ordinary life Rushdie

NEW YORK (R) — Salman Rushdie, in hiding for nearly a year since the Ayatollah Ruhol-lah Khomeini ordered his death, said in an interview published Saturday that be misses ordinary pleasures like driving a car and

going to the cinema. In a 90-minute telephone interview with Newsweek, Rushdie also said he feels that if his novel the Satanic Verses is not issued in paperback then the death order and the campaign against the book will have succeeded.

Khomeini ordered Muslims a year ago to kill Rushdie for blaspheming against Islam in the surrealistic novel and even after Rushdie apologised the death order stood. The Indian-born author went into hiding in Britain on Feb. 14.

Khomeini died last June 3 but Iran did not lift the order and Rushdie has remained in hiding under the protection of Britain's special branch.

He has written several book reviews and essays but declined interviews with the media until be agreed to call Newsweek from his

ting place. In the interview, Rushdie said that what he misses most is ordinary life: Walking down the going to a movie.
"I've always been a big movie addict and I haven't been in the cinema for a year. I haven't driven a car for a year, and I love to drive. What I miss are these tiny things," he said.

He also said he was upset with his publisher, Viking Penguin, for not issuing a paperback version of the Satanic Verses, something he said would have normally been done this winter.

"If we do not complete the cycle of publication, we will in some sense have been defeated by the campaign against the

### street, browsing in a bookstore, Premadasa: The worst is over

cies) — President Ranasinghe Premadasa, celebrating the 42nd anniversary of his troubled nation's independence, said Sunday the worst was over and peace and prosperity lie ahead.

But the top opposition leader, former Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike, scathingly questioned what there was to cele-

"When our country has earned the reputation of being one where crime and violence have reached barbaric proportions, can anyone other than those in power celebrate independence?" Mrs. Bandaranaike asked in a statement published in Sri Lankan newspapers Sunday.

Premadasa, speaking at Colombo's Independence Square, conceded 1989 was a "trying period." But in his anniversar message to the nation, he said: "Our people have clearly indicated they will never allow intimidation, bloodletting and violence to destroy democracy. The president spoke in Sinhalese, Tamil and English, re-

flecting the ethnic diversity that

political assassinations that have claimed 17,000 lives in the last seven years. Mrs. Bandaranaike, who

served two terms as prime minis-ter in the 1960s and 1970s when that post headed the Sri Lankan government, questioned whether anyone was in the mood to celebrate Sri Lanka's freedom from Britain on Feb. 4, 1948.
"When fear of death looms

large in the minds of many peo-ple, when thousands have died by the roadsides with bodies of youths being burnt or left mutilated and hundreds of corpses float down rivers, who can cele-brate independence?" the leader of the Sri Lanka Preedom Party asked in her published statement.

Premadasa, who was greeted by singing girls and a 25-gun salute at Independence Square, asserted that his government had achieved success in resolving Sri Lanka's tangled conflicts.

"We can prosper and progress if we impress upon ourselves, especially our youth, that we will never allow foreign powers to interfere in our affairs," he said, lies at the root of Sri Lanka's referring to India.

drawing peacekeeping troops sent in July 1987 to police a peace accord aimed at halting a Tamil separatist insurrection. But the largest Tamil militant group re-neged on the accord and attacked the Indian peacekeepers.

The arrival of the Indian soldiers triggered a murderous backiash by ultranationalist Sinhalese who started assassinating fellow Sinhalese in the government for making concessions to the minor-ity Tamils and inviting in the foreign troops.

Indian troops came to Sri Lanka at the invitation of Premadesa's predecessor, then-President Junius R. Jayewardene, who was a special guest at Sunday's celebrations. Premadasa, who like most top

Lankan politicians is Sinhalese, took office 13 months ago. His government counts among its successes has been India's agreement to withdraw the last of its troops by March 31, bringing Tamil Tiger guerrilles into negotiations for political power, and annihilating the top leadership of the Sinhalese ex-

Tamil militants launched their campaign for a separate state in 1983, saying they needed their own homeland to preserve their minority ethnic identity and to combat what they said was discrimination by the Sinhalese in jobs, education and use of the

Sinhalese language.

Tamils, who are mostly Hindus, make up 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people, while the predominantly Buddhist Sinhalese comprise 75 per cent. About 7 per cent of the popula-tion are Muslims, There also is a small Christian commu scended from European colon-

India has proposed in a draft friendship treaty with Sri Lanka that it provide training and arms for Colombo's security forces, the Sunday Times newspaper re-

"The government of India in a spirit of friendship and cooperation will provide training facilities and military supplies for Sri Lankan security forces at the request of the government of Sri

Lanka," the newspaper quoted a draft treaty by India as saying. But a draft provided by Sri Lanka, also published in the newspaper, did not contain this provision.

Military sources said that at

present Sri Lankan security persounce received training in India and Pakistan. Arms and ammunition are mainly purchased from China and the West. Officials of both countries are now studying the drafts, which will be made into a joint treaty to

be signed soon. It will replace a

1987 accord between the two The Sunday Times, giving de-tails of the drafts for the first time in the local press, quoted the Indian draft as saying that "each contracting party will respect the independence, unity, sovereign and territorial integrity of the other and refrain from interferring in the internal affairs of the

The Sri Lankan draft said both countries would agree that each country will not permit its tenitory to be used by any person to commit terrorist activities or to advocate separatism in the other.

#### Thieves rob treaures at Herculaneum

NAPLES (AP) — Masked ban-

dits bound and gagged guards at

Herculaneum, a Roman city destroyed by the Vesuvius volcano in 79 A.D., and stole hundreds of treasures, including bronze stames, vases and jewelry, reports said. Baldassare Conticello, the superintendent of the archaeological areas of Herculaneum and nearby Pompeii, said the inventory of the stolen goods was still incomplete, the Italian News Agency (AGI) reported. But the missing items included about 200 gold bracelets and earnings, a Ist-century bronze wase in the form of a woman's head and a 80-cm-high (32-inch-high) silverand copper inlaid bronze statue of Bacchus, he said. In the early morning hours of Saturday, a least four armed bandits wearing ski masks surprised four night watchmen in their station, investigators said. The custodians were forced at gunpoint to turn over the keys to a building that houses hundreds of artifacts, AGI said. The custodians were tied up and their mouths taped with bandages, the agency said. After a few hours, one of the guards was able to free himself and sounded an alarm, AGI said. Conticello said sale of the stolen goods would be difficult since they were catalogued, but it was possible someone had commissioned the holdup to enrich a personal col-

### McCartney: Beatles reunion possible

DETROIT (R) — Ex-Beatle Paul McCartney has said that there may be a rennion for the three surviving members of the band. McCartney told a news conference some form of collaboration was possible after the conclusion of a 20-year legal battle over royalties between himself, former Beatles George Harrison and Ringo Starr and Yoko One, widow of John Lennon, who was shot outside his Manhattan home in December 1990:

"There a couple of projects into are possible," he said. McCarrier old not provide specifics and bedid not say whether he had whe cassed the idea of a reunion with Ringo or George. McCartney; his wife, Linda, and a four-member band are in Detroit to start the North American leg of a 1990 world tour, his first since 1976. On the tour McCartney has be playing some Beatle hits such as Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band and Let It Be for the first time in many years. He said he just felt the time was right. When the Beatles broke up it was really difficult. A bit like a di-vorce — you don't want to play the material of the ex-wife ... it's a question of getting back to the songs or ignoring them for the rest of my life. It's just the right time to come back to this stuff,"

### **U.K. drops 666** from licence plates

LONDON (AP) — The number 666 has been dropped from British car license plates because some believe it is a symbol of Satan, traffic authorities said Friday. The decision followed several incidents in which drivers claimed to be jinxed by the 666 in their number plates, explained Jeff Mumford, senior executive officer of the policy branch of the government's Driving, Vehicle and Licensing Centre (DVLC). "It's not that we as an organisation give any credence to this, but we don't want to be inadvertently causing real distress to people," he said in a telephone interview from the centre's headquarters in Swansea, Wales.

#### Global weather (major world cities)

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